

Dudley CHRONICLE



Thursday, February 15, 2018

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Out-of-date machinery needs replacing with modern unit

CREMATORIUM: £1m REVAMP PLANNED

Report by Jamie Brassington

AN ageing crematorium in Stourbridge is set to be modernised under £1 million plans in a bid to cope with increasing demand.

The cash will be used to replace old cremators with new ones at Stourbridge Crematorium on South Road, under the proposals.

Stourbridge Crematorium could cease operating if work is not carried out, meaning cremations taking place elsewhere, probably at Gornal Wood Crematorium.

A council report warned: "Stourbridge Crematorium currently operates with two cremators that are past their intended operational life.

"As a result, due to the age of the machines, parts are now becoming increasingly more difficult to source by the servicing company and there are only a small number of crematoria in the country that still have this type of cremator.

"It is inevitable that at some point in the future, parts on the cremators will break down and they may not be able to be replaced, resulting in the inability to cremate at Stourbridge Crematorium."

Expanded

Under the plans the chapel at Stourbridge Crematorium would also be expanded and a new cafe would be built.

The council report said the project will allow Stourbridge to become more competitive with neighbouring crematoria.

"New cremators are more efficient and will allow for larger coffins to be cremated where necessary," the report added.

The project is set to cost around £1 million and is included in Dudley Council's upcoming capital programme, where the local authority sets out money to spend on future projects.

A decision on the project will be made at a Dudley Council meeting on Monday at Dudley Council House.

Stourbridge Crematorium opened in 1960 and is run by Dudley Council. The crematorium's buildings were adapted from an old chapel, with many of the features preserved to retain its unique character.

ORGANIST ENTERTAINS AS ST PETER'S CELEBRATES



Organist James Brookes at the keys of the restored organ in St Peter's Church, Cradley, where a thanksgiving concert was held

AN historic church resounded to the strains of a newly-restored organ as a service of celebration was held to mark its installation.

The organ, which has been providing music for congregations at St Peter's Church in Cradley for more than 80 years, has been given a new lease of life after restoration work.

Repairs were carried out on the 1933 cinema-style Compton pipe organ following a £7,000 appeal, which funded the installation

of an organ blower rescued from neighbouring St Luke's Church in Cradley Heath, which was demolished, and also paid for work to the electrics.

A congregation of more than 130 attended a classical concert, performed by professional organist Richard Jeffcoat, on Saturday to celebrate the organ's return to working order.

The recital was followed by another musical interlude featuring churchgoers' favour-

ite hymns with the St Peter's organist James Brookes at the keys. He said the concert was a way of saying thanks for the money and time people had given to the fundraising appeal.

Those who had donated were invited to choose a hymn, with the most popular ones including How Great Thou Art, Thine Be The Glory and Shine Jesus Shine.

Among the congregation was a donor who gave £2,000 but wishes to remain anonymous.

POLICE

Man, 20, stabbed outside restaurant

A 20-year-old man was stabbed in the arm with an axe or large knife by a hooded attacker as he left a Dudley restaurant.

The attack happened outside the Chiquito restaurant at Castle Gate on Saturday night. A police spokesman said: "Officers were called to the scene just after 10pm to a report of a hooded man attacking a man with what is described as a large axe or knife as he left the restaurant." The victim was taken to hospital.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111

COURT

Jury are out to consider verdict

JURORS retired to consider their verdict in the case of a man fatally stabbed in a Brierley Hill street.

Prosecutors at Birmingham Court of Appeal alleged Niron Parker-Lee murdered father-of-two Mansoor Mahmood, of Bague Walk, Brierley Hill, after they battled in an alleyway over a drugs dispute.

Parker-Lee, of Blewitt Street, Pensnett, denies murder but claims he stabbed Mr Mahmood in self-defence in the town's High Street on October 15, 2016.

HOMES

£30m housing scheme backed

DUDLEY Council's cabinet has given the go-ahead for a £30 million plan to build more than 300 council homes in the borough over the next five years.

It is part of an ambitious £232m scheme to build new and improve existing council housing to help solve the local housing crisis.

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Killer's death in prison was suicide



Paul Abbott took his life a year to the day that he killed Jackie

A CONVICTED killer took his own life in prison one year to the day he bludgeoned his wife to death, an inquest heard.

Paul Abbott was jailed for life with a 15-year minimum term in 2016 after he admitted murdering his wife Jackie at their Netherton home.

Abbott was found dead in HMP Long Lartin, in Worcestershire, on December 11, 2016.

Jury

Following a one day inquest held at Worcestershire Coroner's Court last Wednesday, a jury concluded his death was suicide.

On December 11, 2015, the horrific attack saw Abbott strike his wife of 28 years, Jackie, at least 16 times with a hammer, at their home in Lodge Crescent.

The 57-year-old was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court in July 2016, after admitting murder.

At the time of Abbott's sentencing, the court was told his gambling, jealousy and controlling behaviour had dominated the relationship. A row over tickets to an Elvis tribute act sparked the fatal assault.

Their sons, who had been at the family's business in Hurst Lane, Brierley Hill, found their 54-year-old mother's body in the back garden.

Dance floor death shows horror of knife violence

THE senseless death of footballer Ryan Passey in a dance floor scuffle shows the urgent needs to get knives off the streets, said a senior police officer involved in the case.

Detective Inspector Caroline Corfield said the case should serve as a warning. This followed the conclusion of a trial in which a teenager was cleared of murdering Mr Passey. Kobe Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, was also found not guilty of manslaughter as the jury returned unanimous verdicts after five hours.

Mr Passey, aged 24, died of a fatal knife wound after fighting broke out at Chicago's in Stourbridge.

The 19-year-old trainee plasterer who was on trial maintained he took the knife from a friend and pushed forwards out of fear as punches were thrown.

The victim's family reacted with shock to last week's decision at Birmingham Crown Court. In tears outside the court, his father Adrian Passey said it was 'disgusting'.

But Judge Julian Goose, QC, said: "In the end the jury made their decision. They have made it clear and there is nothing further that needs to be said."

Disbelief

Mr Passey's mother, Gillian Taylor, of Netherton, said she was disappointed no one had been found responsible for her son's death. She added: "This will open the floodgates for others to go out with knives."

Family friend Jason Connon, speaking on behalf of the family, said: "We're shocked and numb, and in total disbelief."

Mr Passey, from Quarry Bank, who had played for the youth team at Stourbridge FC, was fatally wounded at the night club at around 1am on August 6.

DI Corfield added: "We always need to keep trying to bring down violent crime and particularly knife crime."

"I want to pay tribute to both families for the dignified way in which they have conducted themselves throughout the whole investigation. The effects of a crime like this are really far reaching. It has devastated two families, most of all Ryan Passey's who are grieving."

Meanwhile, a group of masked men smashed the windows of Chicago's nightclub in Stourbridge during the early hours of last Friday.

Quiz night is to help Beacon centre

A LAW firm is organising a fundraising quiz for the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley next month. Thursfields is inviting teams of four to enter the quiz night in The Seven Stars pub in Gospel End Road on March 15 at 6.30pm. Entry fee per team is £40 with buffet.

Green light to build hundreds of houses

MORE than 600 new homes will be built all across Dudley after councillors gave several new schemes the green light.

Members of Dudley planning committee welcomed proposals for new houses in Dudley town centre, King-swinford, Rowley Regis and Coseley.

Outline planning permission was granted for a retail and leisure site, a pub and 200 homes to be built on land that was used by Istock Brick Ltd in Stallings Lane, King-swinford.

A further 142 homes will be built on land next to Darkhouse Lane in Coseley after approval. Plans for 209 homes on the old Excelsior Industrial Estate off Cakemore Road in Rowley Regis were also given the thumbs up and a total of 63 homes will replace the old council offices at the Cloughton Centre in Blowers Green Road, Dudley, when the building is demolished.

Traffic

Overall councillors welcomed the plans at a meeting last week but some were concerned about the extra traffic the new homes would generate.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill said Cinder Road, near the proposed Istock development, was a street 'built for horses and carts'. He said: "I know only too well the constant traffic there and I have serious reservations. You get on the road and you're just sitting in a traffic jam."

Councillor John Martin added: "It's always a challenge to put land like this back to good use. Clearly this is an attractive development and it improves and regenerates part of our ward. But it is on an ageing and creaking road structure."

Councillors unanimously voted in favour of all four applications, including plans for 209 homes off Cakemore Road in Rowley Regis on an old industrial estate.

The proposed site will be close to the M5, which means some homes will be built with specially glazed windows to keep out the noise of the motorway.

Society aims for West Side glory



Dan Smith and Beth Berwick-Lowe pictured with the rest of the cast of West Side Story during a dress rehearsal

IT is one of the most unforgettable musicals of all time - transporting Romeo and Juliet to 20th century New York.

West Side Story is coming to the Black Country, where it will be given a special twist by The Tab Operatic Society.

The show portrays the struggle to survive in a world of gang warfare between the American Jets, led by Riff, played by Grant Chapman, and Puerto Rican Sharks, led by Bernardo, played by Mitchell Basta-

ble. Tony (played by Dan Smith) is a former member of the Jets who meets Bernardo's sister Maria (played by Beth Berwick-Lowe) at a dance and they fall in love at first sight. But gang rivalry means some want to keep the couple apart

Team

The show runs at Stourbridge Town hall from March 6 to 10. It is being directed by the husband-and-wife team of Leon and Rachel Davies, with Tom Porter the musi-

cal director. The show's hit songs, by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, include Somewhere, America, Maria, Tonight and I Feel Pretty.

Evening shows will be at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2pm.

Tickets are £16 or £17 for evenings and £13 for the matinee. Contact production secretary Diane Bate on 07722 417962 - or any member of the society - for tickets. See the Tab Operatic website www.taboperatic.com for further details.

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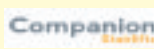
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Travellers' transit site gets the green light

A TRAVELLERS' transit site is to be built in Coseley after Dudley Council bosses backed the proposal.

The site will be established on disused council-owned land off Budden Road. The council is setting up the site to ensure it has stronger powers to deal with illegal camps, which have blighted the Black Country and cost tax-payers £150,000 a year in clean-up and legal fees.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "This is a highly emotive subject and I understand local people care passionately about their area. However, evidence from other local authorities indicates that transit sites are used very infrequently and the most significant effect it has is preventing travellers establishing encampments in the area in the first place

"We have seen a rise in the number of unauthorised camps. These are expensive and cost Dudley taxpayers thousands of pounds in clean up and legal costs. Creating the temporary travellers' site cut the time we spend going through the legal process to move travellers that have camped up illegally."

The Budden Road site came out top of a shortlist of 10 potential locations after public consultation. But there are strong feelings against it in Coseley where Commercial Body Fittings Ltd warned it may have to move due to security and insurance concerns.

Anger as mayor's office costs soar

AN MP has hit out at plans to quadruple the size of the spend on the West Midlands Mayor's office over the next 12 months.

Official papers show Andy Street is currently spending £400,000 on his office, but this will rise to £1,500,000 by 2019.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin said: "Andy Street promised he would keep the costs of his office down, but here he is quadrupling the size of his army of advisers.

"Instead of hiring flunkys and spin doctors, our Tory mayor should be using every penny to tackle the scandal of rough sleeping and providing more apprenticeships for local youngsters."

Back to the 1940s

AN evening of 1940s style entertainment is promised at Dudley Town Hall on May 15. The show Hits from the Blitz, featuring Five Star Swing and singer Simone, is being staged at 2pm. Call (01384) 812812 for tickets.

Seventh road ban driver is jailed

A BANNED motorist who led police on a high-speed chase through residential streets ignoring several sets of traffic lights has been sent to prison.

Leroy Hall, who has never sat a driving test, was also disqualified from the road – for the seventh time.

The 26-year-old from Dudley Port, was spotted by police on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road at the Junction 2 roundabout for the M5 in the early hours of December 21 last year.

The 'tatty condition' of Hall's Volkswagen Golf caught the eye of the police officers and they noticed he reacted with concern when they pulled up alongside him.

He continued to behave in an 'odd and furtive

manner', including sliding down into his seat, before pulling on to the forecourt of a Shell garage.

As one of the officers approached his car, Hall sped away, said Mr John Evans, prosecuting. The Golf hit speeds of 75mph on Bromford Road and went through two sets of traffic lights on red, before turning into Portway Road, where it travelled at double the 30mph limit, and back on to the Wolverhampton Road.

Mr Evans continued: "Due to the time, there was little on the road. Had there been, there would almost certainly have been a collision."

The police car slowed but Hall, who had a female front seat passenger, still sped through red lights, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

On Newbury Lane he overtook another vehicle at around 60mph, double the speed limit, and veered off into side streets, before rejoining Newbury Lane where he mounted the pavement and drove down a steep embankment into fields. He dumped the car and tried to run for it but was caught by police.

Defending, Mr David Iles, said his Hall claimed to be on an 'urgent mission' after receiving a message that he was about to become a father.

Hall, of Colbourne Road, who had been banned six times in less than two years, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

He was jailed for 14 months and banned from driving for three years.

Four advice centres will close to create one base

FOUR Citizens Advice centres in Dudley are to be closed down with the charity combining services in one town centre base.

Drop-in centres in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen will close in April and be replaced by what CAB bosses described as a new town centre 'super service' in Dudley House at Stone Street.

But the move has been criticised by Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward. He said: "This is going to be a disaster. So many people go to Citizens Advice and use it as a vital service. When we as councillors cannot help, we always send people there.

"Most the people who need places like this are either low paid or elderly. The elderly citizens are a forgotten army who need the help the most from places like this on issues such as accommodation.

"Even ex-service people when they are in need of support after being demobbed go to Citizens Advice because they are able to offer them the best support."

Demand

However Laura Thomas, CEO, Citizens Advice Dudley Borough, said many local centres were already having to close early and a new 'super service' would mean the CAB would not have to turn people away.

She said: "For a long time Citizens Advice Dudley Borough's local services have been frequently forced to close early as a result of overwhelming demand. This has often meant that people who really need our service have been turned away. To deal with as many cases as possible we have made the decision to close our four current building-based services and create a super service in the heart of Dudley. It will ensure we are able to offer assistance to all of those who need it."

Halesowen CAB is in the Cornbow shopping centre, Stourbridge is in Market Street, Brierley Hill CAB is at the library in the High Street while the Dudley one is St James's Road. They are expected to close on April 6 with the new centre opening on April 9.

Hippodrome – the fight goes on



Supporters of the move to reopen Dudley Hippodrome make their views known to councillors

THE future of a Dudley landmark remains unclear after council bosses agreed to take it back into their possession.

Campaigners have been fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome on Castle Hill, once the borough's premier venue. But Dudley Council's cabinet ruled that a five-year

lease, granted to campaigners in December 2016, was unworkable and voted to take back control, claiming the group had failed to hit targets.

Protesters gathered outside the council house ahead of the crunch meeting on Thursday evening. Steve Daniels, a spokesman for

the group, said: "We have worked really hard on the project." Hippodrome supporters expressed their anger including a shout of 'rubbish' in the council chamber.

Mr Daniels said campaigners will try to get listed status for the former theatre, to protect it from demolition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rally over fears of Brexit backsliding

WEST Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge criticised 'backsliding from the Government' in its European Union negotiations on Brexit as he addressed a rally in Dudley.

A crowd of around 50, many carrying banners and Union Flags, attended the rally in Stone Square on Saturday. The UKIP politician, who is also a Sedgley councillor, called for a clean break from Europe, blasting the Government for compromising with the EU. He claimed the Prime Minister's latest talks meant the UK would have to abide by EU rules, including over the single market and human rights.

Police arrest two over cannabis den

A CANNABIS factory was discovered during a police raid in Brierley Hill on Monday, leading to the arrests of a man and woman.

More than 70 plants were found at a property on Talbot Street at 10.40am.

Police arrested a 28-year-old man and 34-year-old woman on suspicion of cultivating cannabis.

A Twitter account of Brierley Hill-based police shared a picture of the cannabis farm online.

Dozens of green plants were pictured in a room illuminated by indoor growing lights.

Pupils can't wait to rock the show

YOUNG performers are hoping to raise the roof with the popular musical School of Rock.

Pupils at The Kingswinford School are no stranger to large-scale productions. They have brought the songs of Queen to the community with We Will Rock You, brought soul to the show with The Blues Brothers Musical and last year captured the crowd in the vines of Audrey 2 with a performance of Little Shop of Horrors.

Performances will take place at 7pm tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow at the school. Tickets start from £6.

Franz ascending for gig at O2 Academy

SCOTTISH indie rock band Franz Ferdinand will be in concert in Birmingham on Tuesday just a few days after releasing their fifth studio album, Always Ascending.

The five-piece band from Glasgow, whose hits include Take Me Out and Do You Want To, play the city's O2 Academy.

The support act is Albert Hammond Jr, lead guitarist of New York group The Strokes.

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Prisoner died of natural causes

A PRISONER died from cardiac arrest after being admitted to hospital with stomach pain and sickness, an inquest heard. Jason Treymayne, aged 47, was an inmate at HMP Featherstone when he taken to New Cross Hospital following loss of appetite and generally being unwell on June 1.

Cannock Coroners Court heard how tests showed he had a 'rare intra-abdominal malignancy' and a family history of cancer. His condition deteriorated, but despite several attempts a 'diagnosis was allusive'. Mr Treymayne died on August 17.

Assistant coroner Margaret Jones gave a conclusion of natural causes.

Jazz festival shots are now on display

A COLLECTION of eye-catching photographs from the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 is now on display until June.

Photographs, which capture some of the stars of the festival, are at six venues: Sandwell Arts Café, Central Sixth campus, New Street, West Bromwich; Central Library, High Street, West Bromwich; Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street; Tipton Library, Unity Walk; Blackheath Library, High Street; and Bleakhouse Library, Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury.

The Jazz Festival returns in July and more volunteers are needed. Call 0121 569 4904.

Talk on the real Peaky Blinders

THERE will be a talk on the real Peaky Blinders by a popular historian in Birmingham.

Professor Carl Chinn is delivering the lecture in the Mockingbird Theatre at Digbeth's Custard Factory, the creative hub on Gibb Street, on June 26 at 7pm.

He will be telling the story of the real gangs that terrorised people in the city and at racecourses during the 1920s. He will also be signing copies of his book The Real Peaky Blinders.

Clangers are being made at Wolfie's Den

YOUNGSTERS have the chance to make their own Clanger at Molineux. A team from Wolverhampton Art Gallery is visiting Wolfie's Den on March 3. The first 100 children to Wolfie's Den will be able to make their own classic Clanger from the 1970s animated TV series. The gallery is staging the exhibition Clangers, Bagpuss & Co until April 29.

Young female engineers take on challenge

AN all-female team of budding young inventors from Staffordshire has teamed up with a global engineering giant as part of the MNA Stem Challenge 2018.

Aged between 13 and 14, the team of six girls from Staffordshire University Academy in Hednesford has partnered with thyssenkrupp (UK) – the German steel group with its UK base in Solihull and a major operation at Cradley Heath.

Overseen by Midlands News Association, the STEM Challenge aims to boost pupil engagement in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths by bringing together 25 teams from schools across the Black Country, Shropshire and Staffordshire to pit their creative skills against one another.

The contest is also a prime opportunity for students to form valuable links in the world of industry, with

each team paired with a representative from a business or organisation who acts as a mentor throughout.

Scott Williams, director of teaching and learning at Staffordshire University Academy, has been charting the team's progress. He said: "Given that there is a national shortage of women working within STEM-related professions, we've really embraced the chance to get female students more involved."



The pupils with Scott Williams, of Staffordshire University Academy, and Melanie Fleet, of thyssenkrupp (UK)

Future looks bright for next generation

Report by Heather Large

FROM virtual reality to 3D printing – teachers and mentors enjoyed a range of workshops as part of the MNA STEM Challenge 2018.

Tutors carried out demonstrations and let visitors try out the equipment during the event at Dudley College of Technology's Advance I and Advance II campuses.

The event was organised for teachers and mentors who are supporting school pupils competing in the challenge launched by the MNA, publishers of the Express & Star, Shropshire Star and The Chronicle, to promote the importance of the key Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects.

Together they will design and manufacture a product to improve or enhance the quality of life for a group or person they consider to be disadvantaged. The teams of six pupils will need to demonstrate their product or prototype at the college on July 5.

Tour

Teachers from local schools, along with the mentors, were invited to tour the facilities. The aim of the event was to showcase what is on offer and allow the teams the chance to sign up to use the equipment. They were shown CAD (Computer Aided Design), CNC (computer numerical control) machines, pneumatics, 3D printers and drones.

Shaun Hunt, assistant principal at Dudley College, which is the main sponsor for the MNA STEM Challenge 2018, said: "There has been a lot of interest and they are already talking about how they can incorporate these technologies in their project."

Ryan Young, a chief quality engineer at Harco Engineering, Brierley Hill, partnered with Dudley's Holly Hall



Revathi Timms examines a 3D printer at Dudley College as part of the STEM challenge for local schools



Lecturer Steve Perkins shows what a drone can do

Cyrille video tribute gets more than 167,000 views

AN UPLIFTING video from footballer Cyrille Regis's wake at Villa Park has emerged on social media.

The legendary striker was remembered at a service of celebration at The Hawthorns when more than 4,000 people attended the public service at the ground where he made his name.

Afterwards, family members and close friends headed to Villa Park's Holte Suite for the wake, where the theme of celebration continued. The video has been watched more than 167,000 times and liked by more than 6,000 people.

Regis played for Albion, Villa, Wolves and Coventry during an illustrious career that also broke down racial barriers for black footballers. Last Friday would have been his 60th birthday.

In the video former team-mate Ally Robertson brushed away tears, saying he was heartbroken. The football stars enjoyed seven years playing together at The Hawthorns in one of the greatest Baggies teams

Tough Scot Robertson, a former centre-back, revealed he and striker Regis struck up an instant rapport from the moment they first met with the pair enjoying a number of tussles on the training field. But that friendship went beyond football, with Robertson hailing his friend as one of the greats of the game. He continued: "We used to call him a gentle giant, he was the ultimate gentleman. I just feel so privileged to have known Cyrille."

● Visit expressandstar.com to see the video

Move to ease traffic near park

TRAFFIC restrictions around a Stourbridge park are set to be made permanent to ease congestion.

Parking along Norton Road in Stourbridge has caused congestion around Mary Stevens Park that stopped access for buses, so highways officials put restrictions in place in October 2016 to stop parking along part of the A451.

The measures have been so successful at preventing the congestion, that Dudley Council is now looking to make the restrictions permanent.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The congestion in that area was quite a problem. It is important we keep traffic moving, especially buses. Not only that, less congestion means less pollution."

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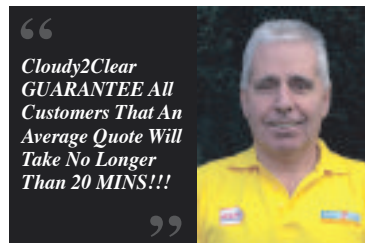
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No prison for man with 'worst' child porn images

A PERVERT who became addicted to child pornography has been spared jail after paying for professional help.

Robert Evans, of Stockwell Avenue, Brierley Hill, had 1,200 images of the worst kind stored on his computer. Some of the images involved babies.

The laptop was seized when police swooped on his home on August 17 to discover that the 56-year-old had already left for work. His wife was at the address when the officers arrived and was 'utterly shocked' when told why they had come, disclosed Mr Glyn Samuel, prosecuting.

She contacted her husband who arranged a meeting with police, at which he made a full confession. Mr Samuel continued: "The defendant himself described some of the stuff he had been looking at as 'really bad' and admitted he had become addicted."

Evans, who had allegedly been abused when young, desperately wanted help, declared Miss Lynette McClement, defending. He had already paid to attend courses aimed at assisting him to avoid the 'trigger' that drove him to view pornography.

The defendant admitted three counts of making indecent images and one of distributing.

Recorder Abigail Nixon told him: "Without men like you seeking sexual gratification children would not be abused in this way."

He was given a two year jail sentence suspended for two years because he had started to take steps to 'address' his addiction. He was also ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work, made the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and put on the Sex Offender Register.

Say 'I do' to top wedding fair visit

ORGANISERS of a Black Country wedding fair are offering the chance to win a luxury prize.

Brides who register for the event at The Mount Hotel in Tettenhall on February 25 from 11am to 3pm will be in with a chance of winning an afternoon tea for two in the Drawing Room Bar and Grill.

Go to www.wolverhamptonmagazineweddingfair.co.uk for details.

There will be up to 30 exhibitors at the fair, which will feature all aspects of planning a wedding including venues, dresses and suits, as well as hair and beauty, cars, flowers and photography.

Anyone interested in exhibiting at the fair, staged by Wolverhampton Magazine, can email deana.jones@expressandstar.co.uk or Leah Edmunds at expressandstar.co.uk

Ceremony for care home's spring launch



Mayor Dave Tyler led the topping out

A NEW three-storey care home in Kingswinford has had its 'topping out' ceremony ahead of opening this spring.

The New Bradley Hall will provide residential care, including specialist facilities, to enable patient-centred support for people with dementia.

Guest of honour Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, was on hand to lay the last brick marking the completion of exterior building work at the new purpose-built facility last week.

Black Country Housing Group

(BCHG) rescued New Bradley Hall from closure and saved jobs in an innovative transfer deal with Dudley Council in February 2015.

Councillor Tyler, said: "I was very pleased to be invited to lay the last brick and be part of the topping-out ceremony at the new, New Bradley Hall. It will provide top quality living accommodation for residents and having spoken to many of them at the event, they told me about how excited they were about the move."

The new home for residents aged over 55 years will consist of 66

high-quality bedrooms. Each will be equipped with fully en-suite wet room facilities, a flat screen TV, refrigerator, telephone and full wi-fi service, while the building will additionally include an in-house cinema, café and a hairdressing salon.

The grounds will incorporate landscaped sensory gardens with outdoor seating, while the home itself will be staffed by a professional team.

Amanda Tomlinson, chief executive of CHG, said: "We will be able to deliver even better care for local people, in luxurious new surroundings."

Driver jumps 13 red lights during chase

A YOUNG driver with neither insurance nor a valid licence led police on a terrifying 16-mile chase across the Black Country during which he drove through 13 sets of red lights.

Aiden Jimenez had just got a Renault Megan and wanted to show off to friends. He has been locked up for a year.

But Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the 21-year-old 'panicked' when police ordered him to stop and accelerated away in the car, which had false number plates.

Mr Andrew Baker, prosecuting, said: "He drove dangerously for 16 miles in a pursuit that lasted for 19 minutes and involved him going through 13 sets of red traffic lights, sometimes on the wrong side of the road forcing oncoming vehicles to take evasive action."

Jimenez hit speeds up to 35 mph over the legal limit and did so in a rain storm that created 'appalling' driving conditions during the early hours of November 11.

Stinger

Police were on the verge of abandoning the chase when Jimenez's Megan finally ground to a halt in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, after its tyres had been burst by a 'stinger' placed in its path by other police officers.

The defendant was on licence after being released early from a three year jail term for supplying drugs.

Miss Sabhia Pathan, defending, said: "He describes himself as an appalling driver but ironically he had purchased the Megan to further his career prospects and was about to take his driving test when this happened."

"It was caused by bravado. He wanted to show off because he had got a new car. He panicked when he saw a police car with its lights flashing behind him. He knew he had no insurance or valid licence and did not want to get back to prison, so he put his foot down."

Jimenez, from Westbourne Road, Handsworth, admitted dangerous driving, failing to stop and not having either insurance or licence. He was put behind bars and gets a 12 month driving ban on his release.

Law firm Higgs' bonus for charities



From left, Jenny Sedgwick (NSPCC), Jordan Hollingsworth (Higgs), Amanda Synnott (NSPCC), Tim Jones (Higgs) and Clare Griffiths (Higgs) at the presentation

BLACK Country law firm Higgs & Sons has unveiled its Charity of the Year for 2018 – and has opted to keep it local.

Dudley Mind, based on the Hagley Road in Stourbridge, said it is delighted to have been chosen and will now benefit from 12 months of fundraising by Higgs.

Mark Evans from Dudley Mind said: "We have seen some of the extraordinary events the firm has been involved in over the years to raise money for other good causes, and we are incredibly grateful – and humbled."

Higgs & Sons has just presented a cheque for more than £22,000 to

the NSPCC, their 2017 Charity of the Year.

The funds were raised through an array of challenges and fun events that included the Higgs Annual Football Tournament, which last year saw 48 teams compete to raise more than £8,000, and the annual Higgs Quiz.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£8k made by bust found in garden

A RARE marble bust of a politician found in a garden in the Black Country fetched an impressive £8,000 at an auction – 10 times higher than the valuation.

The marble bust of eminent Georgian politician Charles James Fox, which was found in a garden in Halesowen, fetched a whopping £8,000 at Bridgnorth's Perry and Phillips Auctioneers last week, bought by a London-based investor.

The antique was estimated to sell for between £500 and £800, but went for much more after some very fierce bidding from British and overseas interests.

Adults learn to swim on course

ADULTS braving the water for the first time can take part in new adult swim lessons at Dudley Leisure Centre.

A five-week course runs from Tuesday, February 27, to Tuesday, March 27. The mixed ability lessons are suitable for both beginners and improvers.

Sessions run from 2.30pm to 3pm and the course costs £26.50. A 50 per cent discount is available to Options+ leisure discount holders

For more information, call 01384 812800, visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport or email sport@dudley.gov.uk

Parrots on the move to new home

THREE parrot aviaries at Dudley Zoo are to be knocked down and replaced with a larger bird enclosure at the Castle Hill attraction.

Under a planning application approved by Dudley Council the aviaries will be demolished to make way for a new larger aviary, which will be located next to the keeper's store at the popular zoo.

Dudley Council approved the zoo plans last week. It is among several schemes to improve the enclosures and enhance visitor experiences this year.

Symphonic rock for major city music venue

THE Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is visiting Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday evening for a concert of Symphonic Rock.

Songs made famous by Led Zeppelin, Queen, The Rolling Stones, Adle and George Michael, among many more, will be given the epic orchestral treatment.

Tickets start at £22.50, available from the website thsh.co.uk or by calling 0121 780 3333.

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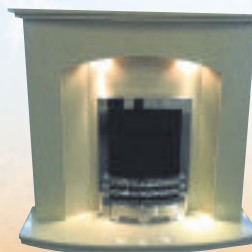


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For a short time in November during roadworks, traffic will be one way in High Oak (Pensnett). Parking is available next to Warm Welcome or the adjacent Bradley Street. Thank you.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Words that just add up to a lot of confusion

STRANGE how words that have been in common use for centuries are suddenly used to mean something completely different.

For example, until last week I had pretty firm ideas of what farmers and miners did. Farmers produce food – you know, growing crops, tending to animals, that kind of thing. And miners? They go on strike. And in between strikes they dig beneath the ground for coal, gold, or whatever. I'm fairly certain they don't set fire to tower blocks.

Yet last week, a Russian website said a huge fire in a Vladivostok tower block was caused by a computer nerd 'mining' for Bitcoins.

"Officers intervened and shut down the illegal farm," it said.

Apparently, mining for Bitcoins involves solving lots of very complicated equations, which overloaded Mr Nerdovitch's computers. In what sounds like a particularly bad episode of Doctor Who, the mathematical processes caused a power surge, sending the flat up in flames. Who knew Bitcoins were so dangerous?

ANOTHER word which seems to change definition depending on context is "exciting". In everyday conversation, I think I know what it means. But whenever it is used by local government, it seems to take on a very different definition.

Take, for example, the announcement by Dudley Council that 13 months after handing a five-year lease to the Dudley Hippodrome friends group, it will be terminating the agreement.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We will be looking to draw up some exciting plans for the site."

I think we all have an idea of what "exciting plans" involve. A new theatre or opera house. A major tourist attraction, on the scale of the Patrick Motor Museum which was due to come to Dudley 16 years ago, before local politics got in the way. That would be exciting.

The problem is some of the other "exciting" plans the council has put forward for the site in the past. First, it was a temporary pay-and-display car park. Then there was a metal-framed conference room then a block-paving scheme. Now the word is, if the Hippodrome is demolished, the site will be used for yet another college building. I doubt if even the students are excited about that.

I have no idea whether the Hippodrome friends have a viable plan, or indeed why the council bought the building in the first place. But until someone comes up with something more "exciting" there's surely no harm in giving them a chance.

Why pardon Suffragettes for crimes they were proud of?



Anthony Bangham – accused of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over limit



Jacob Rees-Mogg – says he is a weed but beware that he has never learned to box



Shaun Evans – has about eight years to morph into somebody resembling Morse

They rejoiced in breaking the law

THIS week's centenary of Votes for Women has been accompanied by much playing of the Suffragettes' song March of the Women by Ethel Mary Smyth. From time to time we moan about our dirge-like National Anthem. Well, here's a ready-made replacement, although some of Cicely Hamilton's lyrics might need changing. "Cry with the wind, for the dawn is breaking" sounds like a medical condition but you can't argue with the splendour of: "Open your eyes to the blaze of day."

THERE are calls to pardon Suffragettes who planted bombs, committed arson and smashed windows in the campaign for Votes for Women. Leave well alone. The Suffragettes rejoiced in breaking the law. They boasted of the number of times they were force-fed, like a badge of honour. What right have we, 100 years later, to pardon them for crimes they were proud to commit?

ADVICE to balaclava-wearing urban warriors considering squaring up to the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg. Don't. Rees-Mogg, who confronted a bunch of offensive protesters at a university debate, says he is an utter weed. I am reminded of the weedy public schoolboy who was on a farm-management course I attended many years ago. He was the only one of us with a car and one night another student, a big, tough rocker with a fringed leather jacket, said it would be a big laff to steal the weedy kid's car for a joyride. He (the rocker) turned up for breakfast the next morning with a bloody nose and a black eye. Turned out the weedy kid, who had caught him in the act, was the all-England public schools flyweight champion. They may look inoffensive but a lot of public school boys do something the rest of us never do. Boxing.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



NO sooner had the Daily Mail accused West Mercia's chief constable Anthony Bangham of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over the speed limit than the back-peddalling began. The National Police Chiefs Council insisted Mr Bangham had not called for punishment for going 1mph too fast. Much relief all round. Enforcing the law in such a draconian, zero-tolerance fashion would be stupid and quite unworthy of any British constabulary.

LAWYERS are preparing cases to prove that women employees of Tesco are doing "work of equal value" to male employees in different jobs, and deserve to be paid the same. This follows the Birmingham City Council campaign where school dinner ladies were judged to be of equal value to binmen and received pay rises and back pay. It has so far cost the council more than £1,000 million. Tesco could be ordered to pay £5,000 million. The case I am longing to see is that of Anna, the minimum-wage cleaner in a large legal practice specialising in employment law. While Anna has no legal qualifications, she keeps the place tidy, disinfects the kitchen and loos and washes the mugs. She provides a clean environment allowing the partners to work in safety. And one day a judge rules that, although Anna's work is very different from that of the lawyers, it is "of equal value" and she therefore deserves the same pay as the average barrister in the practice. Anna gets an immediate rise of £200,000 a year and £5 million back pay. Strangely enough, her bosses do not stand

outside the High Court and claim this is a great victory for equal rights.

IN Endeavour (ITV), Shaun Evans plays the 'young' Inspector Morse. As the new series begins, Evans is 37. Inspector Morse was first screened in 1987 when John Thaw (Morse) was 45. Which means Evans has about eight years to successfully morph into somebody resembling John Thaw, or risk being denounced by one of the older Morse's colleagues at Cowley nick. "Hang on, pal. I knew Morse in his 40s and he was nothing like you . . ." Impersonating a police officer, eh?

A READER draws my attention to "energy shots," which come in tiny 60ml bottles at health shops and promise to "boost your focus." He says the price works out at £31 per litre – more than a bottle of malt whisky. True enough. On the other hand, no-one ever claimed that pure malt boosted anything, with the possible exception of the pub's profits. Another 40-year-old Glenfuddle, sir?

A READER writes: "What the hell has identity to do with leaving the EU?" Seriously? Can some people really not see the difference between the UK as one of 28 members of a political bloc governed from Brussels and the UK as an independent nation governed from Westminster, making its own trade deals, passing its own laws and guarding its own frontiers? What a fine job the EU propaganda ministry has been doing. Meanwhile, the recent threats from Brussels to punish Britain in the transition period are a reminder, if we needed it, that the EU is not a big, jolly, benevolent organisation but a hard-nosed capitalist federation, hell-bent on preventing any other states from quitting.

TALKING POINT



Trying for a baby? Do NOT watch the soaps

IT'S heartbreaking. I feel so sorry for the millions of women desperate to have a baby – that awful feeling when you have been trying for so long and nothing happens. Sometimes there does not even seem to be a medical explanation.

And while they struggle on, with every month bringing new hope of that longed-for baby, only to have their hopes dashed, it seems that all around them – friends, relatives or colleagues – are announcing their happy news.

There are smiles on their faces as they express their congratulations but they are no doubt eaten up with jealousy.

Everywhere, they see babies, buggies, smiling children. It is so hard. And many pay out thousands to go through round after round of IVF which end in failure and more heartbreak and a very sorry-looking bank balance.

People think that babies can be planned – best time to suit your lifestyle, finances, new home etc – but it does not work out that way for everyone.

You may wonder why I am writing about this. The answer is TV soaps. These just add insult to injury for these poor women. I just hope that they don't watch them, because they just pile on the misery.

In these soaps, it seems that a reckless one-night stand means an instant pregnancy. How hard that must be for the women who have been trying for months or even years and are in a committed relationship, or the woman who has just returned from hospital recovering from a miscarriage – do you ever really recover?

Why do the soaps have to use this storyline, if you can call it that, so many times? Surely they should be advocating the importance of using some sort of protection. It seems totally irresponsible.

When dealing with any other sort of medical or emotional problems, there is normally a message at the end of the programme: "If you've been affected by this storyline you can call . . ."

But with the pregnancy storylines, there is nothing to bring any help or comfort to all the would-be mums they have upset. This is possibly a medical and definitely an emotional problem and should be recognised as such.

And maybe another warning to viewers – if you are going to have a quick bit of unplanned fun, probably with someone you shouldn't, then you should be aware of the risks of an unwanted pregnancy. Or maybe just give the 'fun' a miss.

We teach our children to be responsible and the soaps' attitude is not one they should be having thrown at them over and over again. Scriptwriters take note – you are causing a lot of misery.

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TV Gunpowder gore was justified

IT is true that the BBC drama serial 'Gunpowder' contains elements of fiction, as stated by Peter Rhodes (Stourbridge Chronicle Nov 2).

However, his point about the fictional Lady Dorothy being portrayed in 'grisly and obscene detail' to 'crank up the gore level' needs to be answered.

The execution scene in the first episode and even Lady Dorothy's dialogue were taken straight from the execution of Mrs Margaret Clitherow in 1586 at York. Likewise, the disembowelling sequence was similar to that inflicted on Father John Wall in

Worcester on 1679. One of his 'crimes' was saying mass in Stourbridge. These explicit scenes, although very hard to watch, were authentic, relevant and not at all gratuitous.

The Gunpowder Plot was finally played out in a siege with many of the conspirators at Holbeche House, Kingswinford. Interestingly, while Margaret Clitherow and John Wall were later declared saints because they died for their Catholic consciences, Guy Fawkes and his conspirators, for obvious reasons, were not.

BERNARD CARTWRIGHT
Stourbridge

Mother was killed by a motorist

THANK you for the Express & Star campaign 'Enough is Enough', demanding tougher sentences for drivers who kill, with the proposed new law for dangerous driving yet to go before Parliament.

I back the campaign; I have every reason to. In December 1982 my mother was killed on a pelican crossing. The teenage sports car driver, who'd been drinking, was speeding and coming from a car park on to the main road without headlights on, accelerating.

The accident report stated my mother was thrown into the air 10 to 15 feet high. She died instantly. He wasn't even prosecuted! He had no insurance. I claimed compensation from the uninsured drivers insurance fund, and I received £2,500 compensation. I heard no more about it. So, he got away with murder, as I'll always say.

J ADAMS
Rowley Regis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Aynuk remembers Ed

OVER the years, my late partner John, AKA 'Ayli' and myself 'Aynuk', have had the honour of being associated with Ed Doolan of BBC Radio WM. It was always a pleasure and a privilege to appear on his events, especially his Christmas show, and also we were the subjects once, on his programme on Sunday mornings - 'The Other Side Of' which was fashioned after Desert Island Discs.

Ed always made us very welcome whenever we met him. Over the years, Ayli and myself met some wonderful people in show business, Ed rated in the top ten.

Goodbye Ed for now, see you later. Thanks for being a mate.

'Good on yer blue!'
ALAN SMITH
(AKA AYNUK)
Netherton

Fluoridation made folk complacent

RECENT statistics reveal that despite having fluoridised our water for decades, tooth decay amongst children is at an all-time high. This casts doubt on the wisdom of putting fluoride into the water supply.

Could it be that parents have become complacent, thinking that fluoride in our water supply eliminates the need to brush teeth? If so, it is time to stop the process.

If people can't be bothered to brush their teeth properly, then it is their loss and the dentist's gain.

Fluoride is an aggressive substance, so why should the rest of us be poisoned because of them?

There are also other factors that should be considered. The process must be costly, so removing it could reduce our water bills.

Although we are told that the amounts used are tiny, who knows what the long-term consequences of ingesting it for many decades might be? The source of some of those dreadful incurable diseases that have suddenly cropped up in recent decades maybe?

I appreciate that drinking water passes through chemical processes during purification, but I believe that it should be as pure as possible, without adding more chemicals for the sake of a process that consumers are perfectly capable of providing for themselves.

MR M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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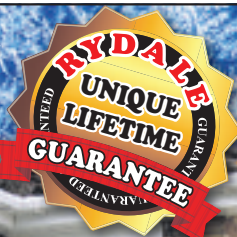


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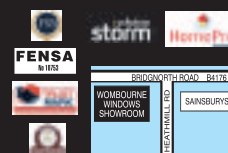
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Author is helping his readers escape reality

HE entertains his readers with tales from a fantasy world, helping them to escape the stresses of daily life. And Black Country author Robert J Marsters loves it when his words can leave a smile on someone's face.

Two instalments of his fantasy trilogy have so far been published with the third due later this year and a prequel also in the works.

So far The Ascension of Karrak and The Bane of Karrak have been well-received by readers, attracting a string of five-star reviews on Amazon.

"I've always loved fantasy and magic. There is so much horror in the world, who hasn't wished they had a magic wand to wave to make all of the horrible stuff in life go away?" he says.

Favourite

"For me fantasy is all about fun and escapism. When someone, who has read one of my books, says to me 'I love the bit when...' and they go on to tell me their favourite part, it feels absolutely brilliant."

But Robert, who lives in Dudley, never planned on becoming a writer. It all started as a way to keep his wife Jane's spirits up while she was receiving treatment for breast cancer in 2015.

Having left his job as a bed store manager to care for her, he would try his best to keep her smiling as she faced surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Jane enjoyed his writing so much that she encouraged him to turn it into a novel and approach a publisher, which led to him signing a contract with Austin Macauley.

"I started writing a silly story to



Author Robert J Marsters with his wife Jane, who encouraged him to write amuse her and it kept getting bigger and bigger. By the end it had become a full trilogy. To be able to make my wife smile when she was going through all of that was priceless. She has come through it all and now helps me with editing the books and attending events," he says.

The first part was published in March last year introducing readers to the sinister Karrak Dunbar, second in

line to the throne of the Kingdom of Borell. As he relentlessly pursues an ancient artefact known as The Elixian Soul, only his brother Jared stands in his way.

The second part of the adventure followed in October and Robert is putting the finishing touches to the third instalment - The Cessation of Karrak. For further information visit robert-jmarsters.com

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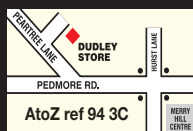
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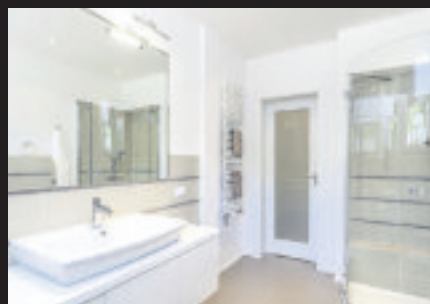
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Champions earn stars for mental health work

MENTAL health champions have been honoured for providing 'outstanding' support to their communities.

More than 200 people gathered to celebrate the achievements of those helping to improve the mental health of residents.

The inaugural awards, led by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), marked the first year of the Thrive West Midlands programme. It was introduced to drive better mental health and wellbeing across the region. The ceremony was held at The Hawthorns.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, who presented the awards alongside North Norfolk MP Norman Lamb, said: "The mental health agenda is a top priority for the WMCA and the Thrive programme has already made astonishing progress in just this first year."

Impact

"I am immensely proud of the work that has been undertaken so far and I look forward to continuing my support as we strive to improve the impact that poor mental health has within our communities and within our workspaces."

The region's Mental Health Superstar was Wolverhampton community worker Gurbax Kaur, who was honoured for raising awareness of mental health issues considered a 'taboo subject' among the city's South Asian community.

Emma Jayne Sasaru, a peer mentor volunteer for birth trauma and perinatal mental health, won Walsall's Mental Health Star award, while Jon Mansell walked away as Dudley's Mental Health Star after impress-



Walsall's Star Emma Jayne Sasaru



Regional Superstar Gurbax Kaur



Dudley award winner Jon Mansell



Staffordshire Health Star Louise Dutton

ing judges with his efforts to call for improved services and his work with West Midlands Police to give officers mental health training.

Zoe Atkins, who was named Sandwell's Mental Health Star, was also recognised for improving mental health and wellbeing, working as a full-time carer and advocate for her

daughter Jodie. Staffordshire's Mental Health Star was Louise Dutton, who was commended for her voluntary work at Tamworth-based mental health charity Changes.

The awards were hosted by broadcaster Adrian Goldberg, and the winners were chosen following nominations from across the region.



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Chamber echoes criticism of bosses

A BUSINESS organisation has added its voice to the barrage of criticism raining down on former bosses of failed building giant Carillion.

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, hit out at the 'distinct lack of ownership' from Carillion's directors and former directors over the collapse.

Mr Crane echoed the harsh criticism of Carillion's directors by the joint chairs of a parliamentary inquiry last week into the company's liquidation, which saw the directors dubbed 'delusional characters'.

Mr Crane was also critical of the bosses, saying: "During the parliamentary committee meeting, there was a distinct lack of ownership coming from Carillion bosses regarding the company's collapse, which is disappointing given the profound impact it has had upon businesses involved in their supply chain network."

Helpline

Mr Crane revealed that the 'overriding' reason companies are calling the Black Country's Carillion helpline is worry over whether they will ever be paid for work they carried out for the collapsed construction giant.

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce has been running the helpline since the day the Wolverhampton-based group collapsed owing millions of pounds.

Businesses on Carillion's supply chain that have been affected can call the helpline on 01902 912322.

Widow Phyllis won convoy recognition



Phyllis Coyle with the medal she campaigned for

A WIDOW from Dudley who fought tirelessly to get recognition for the brave men who served on Arctic convoys during the Second World War has died, aged 89.

Phyllis Coyle campaigned for the Arctic Convoy Star to be presented to the thousands of men who delivered vital supplies to Soviet Russia during the war, braving the dangers of the Nazi navy and extreme weather conditions.

Among them was her husband Mick, who died two years before former Prime Minister David Cameron announced the medals would be given in 2012.

Memorial

She later used £15,000 of her own savings for a memorial for those who served on the convoys at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield.

Mrs Coyle, who lived in Pensnett, died last month at Russells Hall Hospital.

Her husband Mick, who was a stoker in the Royal Navy between 1942 and 1947, took part in four convoys to Russia during the war. More than 3,000 men were killed when convoys were attacked.

On receiving the medal on Mick's behalf five years ago, she said: "When they called to tell me I cried - it's been 65 years, what a long wait but finally we got it. I'm just so sad Mick never saw it, he would have been so happy."

"He and thousands of men faced so much danger but got no recognition from the British Government."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has led the tributes. He said: "Phyllis Coyle was a wonderful lady who contributed a huge amount to our community. She fought so hard to get proper recognition for the brave men, like her beloved husband Mick, who served on the Arctic Convoys, just as she supported all local veterans."

"I will always remember travelling to Alrewas with her for the unveiling of the monument to the convoy veterans that she organised. She and Mick did so much for Dudley. I feel privileged to have known her."

Hundreds of youngsters to be anti-bullying ambassadors

MORE than 450 young people from across Dudley borough will become anti-bullying ambassadors.

They are to be trained by national charity the Diana Award to help combat the menace of bullying.

Dudley's community safety part-

nership, Safe & Sound, and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, will provide match funding to help schools enrol pupils on the nationally-acclaimed ambassador programme.

Sixty three primary schools, 12 secondary schools and seven special schools from Dudley are taking part. One hundred members of staff will also be trained.

Since the ambassador programme was set up in 2011, more than 24,000 young people from across the UK have been trained. Anti-bullying ambassadors help educate their peers on bullying, both physical bullying and online, lead on campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates differences and helps youngsters keep safe.

Find out more at the diana-award.org.uk website.

MP asking for ideas to stop the speeders

AN MP will be working with the community over concerns about speeding vehicles on a Dudley road

Residents contacted Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, to take action to reduce speeding along Cinder Road in Gornal Wood.

Issues were raised about speeding vehicles, especially large commercial vehicles such as lorries causing disruption. Mr Austin has now written to all residents to ask what measures they feel should be put in place.

He said: "Cinder Road residents have told me that speeding on the road is so bad that they are concerned for the safety of road users and pedestrians. I am hoping that something can be done to combat the problem before a bad accident happens."

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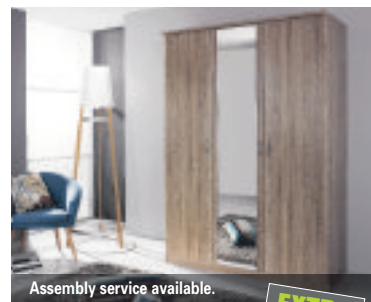
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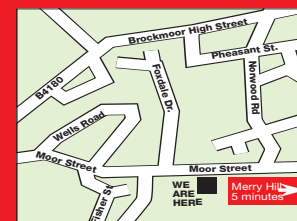
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Flushed with success of guest's talk

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

THE ladies met on February 1 at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford for their first meeting of 2018.

Chairman Sheila Evans thanked Josie Smith for acting as treasurer in Pam's absence. She sent Pam the group's best wishes and hoped she'd be back soon.

Speaker Nigel Metcalf gave an interesting talk entitled 'Clean and Decent'. He talked about people's attitude to cleanliness through the ages and the development of the toilet system.

The Romans and Greeks believed in thorough washing and complete immersion for special events such as weddings and ceremonial functions. Bathing was regarded as a social event.

Gradually, however it became unpopular, the belief being that bathing opened pores and let in disease.

Nigel showed pictures of the development of toilets starting with rows of stone seats with holes in, chamber pots and unhealthy shared toilets in Victorian times when nightmen cleared a cesspit taking contents away in a horse and cart. Gradually flush toilets were developed, toilet paper invented and cleanliness regarded as keeping people healthier.

It was an unusual talk, but often funny talk, full of information. Josie gave the vote of thanks and there were several raffle prizes.

The next meeting will be March 1 at 7.45pm.

Get away! It's a talk on holiday changes



Guest speaker will be Richard Bifield

The Black Country Society

THE Black Country Society has organised a lecture for Wednesday, February 28, at 7.30pm at the HQ of the Dudley Canal Trust on the Birmingham New Road.

Richard Bifield will talk on 'The British on Holiday - From the Grand Tour to Mass Tourism'. The speaker has made a study of culture and tourism in these parts. He is a past chairman of The Friends of Ironbridge Museum and a former National President of the Tourism Management Institute.

The lecture, as the title suggests, will focus on the momentous changes in holiday-making over the last couple of centuries. Non members are welcome.

Admission is £2.

Varied programme includes games and afternoon tea

FOLLOWING a splendid Christmas lunch at The Lodge in December, when a lovely time was enjoyed by all, meetings have resumed again for the new year.

Gatherings take place at the King William pub, Pensnett Road, Dudley, from 1.30 to 3.30pm. At the first meeting, on February 1, Dr N Jasim spoke on the use of complementary medicines.

There is a varied programme for the year ahead, from dealing with the management of inflammatory arthritis, a visit to the Dudley archives, a speaker from the hospital governors and even a games afternoon.

Also on the agenda is an afternoon tea out, a rheumatology consultant speaker and

Dudley Rheumatoid Arthritis Group

tai chi. The group is open to sufferers of RA, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus and EDS. There is a fee of £2 per session, to cover room rent and refreshments, which includes tea, coffee and cakes. A raffle is also held.

Anyone wishing to come along is welcome to bring along a friend or a relative, to enable them to learn more about the complaints.

For further information or help, call Edith on 01902 676136 or Barbara on 01902 885734, or just turn up on the day.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

FOCUS ON NETHERTON AREA

School tots up success by opening new nursery centre

A PRIMARY school has celebrated the opening of a new nursery centre.

Netherbrook Primary, on Chester Road, has declared open its Nethertots Nursery Centre on January 26.

The school has built a new building for the nursery, which will cater for two and three-year-old children.

Mr Phil Rawlings, headteacher of Netherbrook, said: "I am extremely happy to be able to offer such an outstanding new facility which will serve the needs of our community. It really is an amazing new building with wonderful resources and we are lucky enough to have recruited some brilliant and experienced staff."

Project

The building was commissioned by Dudley Council. Work was carried out by AM Griffiths builders, based in Wolverhampton.

"I can't praise AM Griffiths enough for their hard work, attention to detail and proactive approach to a challenging project," added Mr Rawlings.

"The whole team worked tirelessly to complete the building on time and the quality is amazing."

By Jamie Brassington

The project has taken a total of six months to complete.

Nethertots will be open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3.30pm. For more information about the nursery and the school, visit www.netherbrook.dudley.sch.uk website.

Pictured at the opening of the new nursery are, from left, Donna Farnell, Childcare Lead for Dudley local authority; Catherine Marshall Netherbrook, EYF's assistant headteacher; Phil Rawlings, headteacher, Jayne Homer, Nethertots Centre Manager, Sam Smith, site manager for AMG, Vicky Garbett, Nethertots keyworker and Josh Coleman, AMG quantity surveyor.



Netherbrook Primary School and nursery centre staff with representatives of the builders at Nethertots Nursery

Showcase for young performers

DUDLEY Performing Arts (DPA) is presenting a series of spring concerts featuring the best of the borough's young musicians, singers and dancers, including a drumming workshop in Netherton.

The DPA spring dance festival is being held in Dudley Town Hall on March 15 at 7pm. Those taking part include school and community dance groups. The DPA contemporary festival is also in the town hall on March 19 at 7pm and features guitar, percussion and keyboard groups. A festival of song follows at the venue on March 22 featuring school choirs and soloists.

There is a drumming day in Netherton Arts Centre on March 24 and the DPA wind festival is at Dudley Town Hall on March 26 and 27.

Little theatre is back in action

DUDLEY Little Theatre returns to the stage in March with a production of Terence Rattigan's *The Deep Blue Sea*.

The play is being staged at Netherton Arts Centre from March 7 to 10 at 7.30pm. To book tickets for £8 call (01384) 872563. It is part of the amateur group's 70th anniversary season.

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Hit jukebox musical is simply Abba-tastic



A scene from hit musical Mamma Mia! which is staged this week at the Grand Pic: Brinkhoff Mögenburg

Mamma Mia!
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
MAMMA Mia! bursts onto the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre stage with feather boas, flippers, sequins and snorkels, proving that the mother of all jukebox musicals is still the global phenomenon it promised to be when it hit the stage for the first time back in 1999.

This production is polished, drilled and disciplined and yet still gives the impression of being as realistic and relaxed as the Greek island on which it is set.

Caroline Johnson's wacky storyline is never going to win any literary awards and yet somehow, she man-

ages to keep you guessing and to stir emotions, resulting in a massively uplifting, inspiring, heart-warming evening's entertainment that even the most cynical musical theatre-phobe would enjoy.

Single mom Donna and her only daughter Sophie own a run-down taverna under the beautiful Greek sunny skies. Curious about her parentage, bride-to-be Sophie decides to invite three of Donna's old flames to her wedding, in the hope that she can identify her real father.

The world-wide hit songs of Swedish supergroup ABBA reign supreme throughout the show, including Thank You For The Music; Honey, Honey;

Dancing Queen; SOS; Knowing Me; Knowing You; Money, Money, Money and of course the title song to name but a few. Did I mention it is a jukebox musical? The audience knew every line.

Helen Hobson, though not the strongest vocalist, certainly captures the personality of wild child Donna, wringing every drop of comedy out of the script, while Rebecca Seale is uninhibited and amusing as Rosie. Emma Clifford is sensationally sassy as Tanya.

Mamma Mia! is a delight and Thank You For The Music. It runs at the Grand until Saturday, February 24.

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Kaiser Chiefs are odds on to provide a big finale



The Kaiser Chiefs are onto a winner with a concert at Wolverhampton Racecourse Photo by Danny North

ONE of Britain's favourite bands, The Kaiser Chiefs, are a sure bet to end Ladies' Day on a high when rock and racing combine at Wolverhampton Racecourse this summer.

Tickets went on sale yesterday (Wednesday) for the Yorkshire band's concert at Dunstall, which will mark the combination of the annual ladies' day meeting and feature concert fixtures at all-weather track.

"We got asked if we'd come to play @WolvesRaces and @WindsorRaces

and couldn't say neigh," quipped the Leeds band's frontman Ricky Wilson, who also found wider fame as a judge on The Voice.

The group have released six studio albums, the most recent being Stay Together in 2016, and their hit songs include I Predict A Riot, Oh My God, Ruby, Never Miss A Beat and Coming Home.

Festival

The Kaiser Chiefs have become a hugely popular act on the festival circuit, having played the V Festival,

and also gigs at Cannock Chase and Warwick Castle. They will be playing Wolverhampton Racecourse on September 1 and tickets cost £39. Call 0844 2491000 or see www.vmtickets.co.uk website.

The racecourse has in recent years hosted concerts by UB40, Madness, McBusted and Human League.

The course has also announced another major concert this summer by Birmingham's Ocean Colour Scene on Friday, August 31, the day before the Kaisers' gig.

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Super Vampires ready to rock

A SUPERGROUP featuring one of Hollywood's biggest movie stars and two legendary rockers is coming to Birmingham.

Actor Johnny Depp, shock rock veteran Alice Cooper and Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry will visit this summer as part of their first UK tour.

The supergroup trio, named Hollywood Vampires, will perform at Birmingham's Genting Arena on June 16.

The band, which is inspired by the Sunset Strip rock scene of Los Angeles, will be supported by The Darkness and punk veterans The Damned.

Tickets are priced between £52.05 and £60.53.

Black Country car cruise ban now in force for another three years

AN EXTENDED injunction banning car cruising in the Black Country for another three years has now come into force.

The injunction, first introduced in 2015, bans people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell or Walsall.

It also bans people from promoting, organ-

ising or publicising any such event in the four areas. Anyone breaching the injunction risks being in contempt of court, for which they can face up to two years in prison and a fine. They could also have assets – such as their vehicle – seized and crushed.

The four Black Country boroughs and West Midlands Police successfully sought an extension to the injunction until February 1, 2021. This has been backed by the High Court.

Councillor Paul Sweet, cabinet member for

public health and wellbeing in Wolverhampton, said: "Since its introduction in 2015, the injunction has helped to dramatically reduce the menace of car cruising across the Black Country. However, the problem has not been entirely eradicated and car cruises still occur in our region from time to time, sometimes with fatal consequences."

Banned activities include speeding, driving in convoy, racing, stunts, sounding horns or playing music to cause significant public nuisance.

Petition against quarry move

A PETITION has been launched against plans for a quarry on the Shropshire-Staffordshire border. More than 450 people have signed the petition against the application, submitted to Shropshire Council for a sand and gravel quarry on land off the busy A454 Bridgnorth Road, at Shipley, the main commuter route between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton.

Protest signs have been put up as local people campaign against the plans for the phased extraction of sand and gravel. Worfield and Rudge Parish Council has objected, citing concerns about road safety, pollution and detrimental impact on the rural landscape.

Sugar rush at new CoCo's



MP Mike Wood opens the store with owner Nav Sanghera, staff Heather Neale and Harry Poole

THERE was a sugar rush as crowds flocked to the opening of a new dessert shop in Dudley.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood and Wolverhampton-born Watford footballer Andre Gray were on hand to try the tempting array of treats at the official launch of Co-Co's Dessert Factory in Kingswinford.

The shop is the latest arrival at the Charterfield Shopping Centre, off Stalling's Lane.

Pastries

Conservative MP Mr Wood cut the ribbon to open the shop which offers a select range of desserts, ice cream and pastries.

The successful dessert restaurant business already has stores in Wolverhampton and Derby.

Toby Singh, the franchiser, said: "The

opening went really well and we had a nice reception from all the locals.

"The weekend trade was great and we had football players on hand, including Andre Gray, to draw in the crowds.

"We do everything from waffles, cookie dough, crazy shakes and fresh barista coffee with the beans sourced from Shropshire. We like to keep local.

"We are also in the process of opening another store in Cannock on Valentine's Day."

Mr Wood added: "I thoroughly enjoyed welcoming CoCo's Dessert Factory to Dudley South and it was lovely to see so many people supporting the latest small business to join our community."

"I even had the chance to try Coco's signature cookie dough, which was very tasty!"

Raise a glass to the ale fans' best pubs

A POPULAR pub in Halesowen is raising a glass to its success after coming out on top in a pub of the year poll.

Black Country Ales pub The Waggon And Horses has been chosen as the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale's (Camra) pub of the year.

The Stourbridge Road watering hole came top with The Robin Hood in Collis Street, Amblecote, in second place and Stourbridge town centre's Red House Boutique third.

The branch's cider pub of the year is another Waggon and Horses, in Worcester Street, Stourbridge. The club of the year accolade has gone to Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club in Stewart Road, Halesowen.

A cider celebration is planned in memory of chairman of Birmingham branch of Camra Sally Lavender, who died last week aged 47. It will be held at The Old Dispensary in Causeway Green Road, Langley, on March 3 from noon until 4pm.

Orkney folk music

ACCLAIMED Scottish folk quartet Fara have an intimate gig at Birmingham venue the Kitchen Garden Café, in Kings Heath, on Tuesday.

Fara brings together four leading musicians at the forefront of today's Scottish folk scene – Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price's three fiddles and a piano – to produce a fiery sound rooted strongly in their Orkney islands upbringing.

Last year they played the Cambridge Folk Festival.

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78 frontline officers axed in police support staff move

WEST Midlands Police is to spend an extra £10 million on office staff – while axing 78 frontline officers. The force budget for the 2018/19 financial year reveals support staff pay will increase from £98.1m to £108m.

But spending on police officers will fall £317,000 to £352.5m – and the number of officers will drop 78 to 6,450. It comes as crime across the region continues to rise with latest figures showing a 14 per cent increase in one year.

Jail for thug who helped beat up man

A THUG who helped to beat up a man who owed a £15,000 drug debt has been jailed for 26 months.

Nayyid Mohammed joined two others in the assault after the gang went to the building site where the victim was working, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 22-year-old was not the person to whom the money was owed and played a 'lesser role' in the incident, ruled Judge Simon Ward who said: "You were recruited and you were happy to go along."

Whilst on bail for this offence the defendant rammed a police patrol car that had pursued him after he was spotted swerving from lane to lane.

Mohammed of Marshall Street, Smethwick, admitted causing grievous bodily harm and driving dangerously with neither valid licence nor insurance.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is behind the budget.

It also includes an average £12 rise in council tax precept for residents in the West Midlands to increase the overall budget to £548.1m. Mr Jamieson said the rise in support staff spending was required to cover annual increases in salaries.

He said the force was also recruiting more specialist officers over the next two years to deal with fraud and cyber crime. But the move to cut spending on police officers has been slammed by Walsall MP Eddie Hughes.

He said: "It seems crazy to me – people in the Black Country are angry that the PCC is increasing their council tax and in return, they are going to see little benefit from it."

This week the Police Grant Settlement for the force was approved, resulting in a £12.5m loss in funding for the force for 2018/19. In response to this, the council tax precept was increased as part of budget.

The £12 rise in Band D council tax precept is the maximum allowed and is up from the previous limit of £5 a year.

It will pay for 100 new police officers over the next two years – but due to officers leaving the force, the total number will still decrease.

Street sees school's strides first hand



Andy Street joins pupils from Glebefields Primary School on their daily commute as part of the WoW scheme

THE West Midlands mayor put his best foot forward when he joined pupils to walk to school. Andy Street strolled alongside youngsters on their daily commute in Tipton to celebrate the strides they have made to get healthier by walking to school.

He joined pupils and parents from Glebefields Primary School on the walk to hear first-hand about their journey. The youngsters take part in WOW (Walk Once a Week), a year-

round walk to school challenge with charity Living Streets. The challenge rewards children who walk to school at least once a week with collectable badges. It has been shown to boost walking rates by 23 per cent.

Mr Street said: "I'm thrilled to have joined families on their walk to school and to celebrate the achievements of these pupils. It's great to see the impact Living Streets' work is having with so many children taking to their

feet. The West Midlands has one of the highest rates of obesity in the country – around 40 per cent of children here leave primary school overweight – and walking more is a great way to help tackle this.

"I want more schools to follow in the footsteps of the pupils at Glebefields Primary School and swap four wheels for two feet for the journey to school and start experiencing the benefits of walking more."

Winter tips to keep the elderly warm

COUNCIL chiefs have joined a campaign to help the elderly and those with long-term conditions during colder weather.

Sandwell Council is supporting the national Stay Well This Winter campaign. The authority says there are a number of things which can help people over 65 or with long-term health condition during the winter.

It is important for people at risk to keep warm, both inside and outdoors in a bid to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Heat homes to at least 18°C (65°F), with the living room being slightly warmer if preferred.

At the first sign of a cough or a cold, they are advised to seek help from a pharmacist before it gets more serious. Check about getting medicines in stock.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign is a joint initiative from NHS England and Public Health England.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, Sandwell's cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "We want all our residents to stay warm and keep well this winter."

For more information call 0121 552 0563 or 0800 033 7967 (freephone) or send an email to enquiries@warmzones.co.uk

Choose name for zoo baby baboon

DUDLEY Zoo has welcomed a new arrival – the first female gelada baboon to be born at the Castle Hill attraction.

Visitors are now being given the chance to choose her name on Facebook. People can choose Kadida, Tullu or Amhara and votes will be counted up at the end of the week.

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Concern over firefighters' care contracts

FIREFIGHTERS are in a stand-off over care contracts with councils to attend elderly falls, union bosses have claimed.

West Midlands Fire Service had agreed a two-year contract with councils to respond to emergency call-outs from OAPs who have fallen at home, while one authority is also paying for hospital patient transportation.

The fire service won contracts with Wolverhampton and Dudley councils. But after a dispute with the Fire Brigades Union on the work, members have withdrawn support for their employer's contract with the councils.

Firefighters and civilian staff can and have volunteered to take part in the flexible scheme, which can boost their wages by 25 per cent. Crews at Wolverhampton and Fallings Park attended 2,119 falls as part of the contract with Wolverhampton council in 2016/17, compared to 992 actual fires.

Andrew Scattergood, from West Midlands Fire Brigades Union, said: "The union agreed to do the contracts as a trial and when it raised concerns over training and equipment it decided to stop the trial."

The FBU has raised concerns about the training of firefighters for the new roles as well as the risk it could impact cover for actual fires.

West Midlands Fire Service Chief Fire Officer, Phil Loach, said the contract was 'a fantastic opportunity to help the most vulnerable'.

Law firm is backing Promise Dreams work

A BLACK Country law firm has chosen to support the family charity Promise Dreams for 2018.

George Green, which has offices in Cradley Heath and Wolverhampton, will be raising cash for the Wolverhampton-based charity that helps ill children and their families.

Dangerous banned driver had taken cocaine and cannabis

Lee turns down Cambridge for Ivy League



Lee Harding with Tracey Beach, pastoral leader for Key Stage 5, and Andrew Burns, Ormiston Forge Academy principal

A STUDENT at a Cradley Heath school has turned down a place at Cambridge to join an Ivy League university in America instead.

Ormiston Forge Academy student Lee Harding is all set to make the 3,220 mile journey from the Black Country to take up a place at Brown University in Rhode Island in the autumn.

The 18-year-old, from Rowley Regis, will be the first in his family to go to

university. He beat competition from 1,000 other applicants to land the place and a financial aid package to help with living and tuition costs.

The offer came after Lee, who lives with his mother and two brothers, took part in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

The aim of the programme is to encourage academically talented British students from low and moderate in-

come homes to consider studying at American universities.

Founded in 1764, Brown University is the seventh-oldest college in the United States.

Lee is predicted to get three A*s in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and an A in Further Maths when he sits his A-levels in the summer.

He has turned down a place at Magdalen College in Cambridge to study engineering in America.

A DRUG-FUELLED banned driver from Dudley who led police on a high speed 24-mile chase from Worcestershire into the Black Country is starting a 12 month prison sentence.

A police dog handler spotted Kasim Ajmal at the wheel of a stolen Astra travelling too fast at Clows Top in Worcestershire in the early hours of March 22, a judge heard.

The officer – who had two dogs with him – gave chase as the 23-year-old consistently broke the speed limit while heading towards the West Midlands, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The Astra went the wrong way round a traffic island on the Bewdley by-pass while other police vehicles joined the pursuit.

The Astra accelerated up to 70mph in a 30mph limit and ignored a red light – the fourth he had driven through – as it neared Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, revealed Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting.

The car went on the wrong side of the carriageway for a short distance on the approach to the town centre near King Street before driving across a grass bank to get out of a dead end.

Stolen

Three occupants jumped out of the car – that had been stolen five months earlier – before it came to a standstill in Oliver Street, continued Mr Ball.

Ajmal was recognised as the driver of the Astra when seen walking on nearby Cromwell Street. Forensic checks discovered his DNA on a water bottle found in the abandoned Astra.

The driver also tested positive for cannabis and cocaine, the court heard.

Miss Seamran Sidhu, defending, said: "It was very lucky nobody was hurt." She said the defendant had 'lost his way' after being involved in a serious accident five years ago.

Ajmal from Watson Green Road, Kates Hill, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and driving while disqualified and was sent to prison for a year.

Recorder Greg Kelly told him: "You drove so dangerously for so long, putting other people at significant risk."

Hundreds of new trees at country park

MORE than 300 trees will be planted at a country park near Kinver as part of a rotary club project.

Kingsford Country Park will be home to new ash, beech and spruce trees as part of a worldwide scheme by the Rotary movement.

Rotarians aim to plant more than 1.2 million trees across the world – one for each member of the organisation.

Although the Rotary Club of Kinver has a membership of 45, members have agreed with the National Trust to plant 300 at the beauty spot.

Members will be helped by pupils from Brindley Heath Junior School.



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**THIS ASPIRATIONAL MCLAREN MAY BE OUT OF THE REACH
OF MANY BUT CHECK OUT INSIDE FOR OUR COMMERCIAL
SPOTLIGHT ON CARS SUITABLE FOR ALL BUDGETS**

Sporty touches but a family lugger

By Ian Donaldson

Years before Peugeot bought Vauxhall earlier this year the two companies had been working together behind the scenes – on the car you're now looking at, for one.

Or looking at if you had X-ray eyes. For the new Vauxhall Grandland X appears nothing like Peugeot's recent 3008 but beneath their unalike metalwork is more or less the same car.

Same platform (the really expensive bit to design), same engines and same factory – they're both built in France. Starting from pretty well the same price too; £22,495 Peugeot plays £22,310 Vauxhall.



There's plenty of space for luggage



Smart dashboard with proper switches!

1.2 litre petrol and a 1.6 litre with the same bhp but much more pulling power, as is the way with diesels.

Automatic transmissions are optional with either.

Willing

Vauxhall thinks most buyers will take the petrol route, where they'll find a willing power unit that takes the Grandland X to 117mph and to 62mph in 11.1 seconds, while returning an official 52.3mpg and 124g/km in the official tests.

Take a dearer diesel and those figures are 117mph and 11.8 seconds – much the same as the petrol model, but with much better promised economy at 70.6mpg average and less pollution too, with 104g/km.

Whichever engine you choose there's quite a bit of car to pull along, measuring 4,477mm long. A benefit is a boot that takes 514 litres with the rear seats in place and a more than useful 1,652 with them folded.



The car looks neat and modern and does its job well in transporting a growing family

But you must open a door and slip behind the wheel to discover the biggest difference between the Peugeot and Vauxhall approach to family motoring with dashboards that show divergent design philosophies.

Where the Peugeot is an exercise in button denying modernity the Grandland X looks more conventionally smart, with less pressing of fingers on screens and more physical contact with switches.

And all the better for it, I'd say, as you try to adjust the radio to knock the cabin temperature down a degree or two. Out on the road the Grandland X feels anything but sporty, the petrol engine doing its best and staying quietly in the background but a long way from inspiring you to take the long way home.

Should you encounter slippery roads on the way there's an option of IntelliGrip traction control that does its best to mimic four-wheel drive by managing the power going to the front wheels; there won't be a 4x4 because the customers don't want it, says Vauxhall.



Vauxhall thinks most buyers will take the petrol route

Car of mum and dad!

Ferrying family from one social engagement to another may be part of the job description, but it seems for some parents, it's almost a full-time occupation.

New research has found the average parent spends 286 hours a year driving their kids around – almost two months' working days.

If their journeys were on meter, that would earn them a whopping £9.8k a year.

The survey, which polled 2,000 parents for Vauxhall Motors, found that parents could take a road trip to sunny Lisbon for the equivalent of the 1,283 annual miles that they drive their kids on average. But it's not just heading from A to B; parents spend an average of two working days a year simply waiting for their children in cars.

And not all trips are to the tune of "are we there yet?"; half (49 per cent) of parents use journeys to have a laugh with their kids and more than two fifths (44 per cent) say they enjoy the bonding time it offers.

Almost a third (31 per cent) admit that the moments spent in a car with their kids affords them quality time they wouldn't get elsewhere.

But it seems that both parties get fuelled up over the music choices with a quarter (25 per cent) claiming the selection of tunes is the top in-car discussion. The research revealed that car journeys are also a great way for parents to find out more about their kids.

For both children and parents alike, playground chat is the top thing to natter about with almost half (48 per cent) discussing the latest gossip at school, sixth form or college.

A fifth (22 per cent) of parents use car journeys as an opportunity to eavesdrop on their kids' 'private' chats and one in six (17 per cent) say it's a good opportunity to quiz kids about their love life, with nowhere for them to run!

Quality

TV presenter and Dad of two, Jeff Brazier comments: "I definitely do my fair share of ferrying the kids around, but it's fascinating to see how many hours of your life it actually takes up.

"It might seem like a chore at times, but it's true that those journeys are precious moments of quality time that you'll never get back."

Denis Chick, director of communications at Vauxhall Motors, added: "As a father of three, I've spent countless hours behind the wheel at the mercy of my children. At Vauxhall, we celebrate the small moments that make life brilliant.

"And family bonding time during a car trip epitomises just that."

The results show that while parenting really is a full-time job, the Cab of Mum and Dad is an important



Some parents spend 286 hours a year driving their children around – and Grandland X is ideal

bonding experience between parents and their kids – and it's these moments that create priceless memories to make it all worthwhile.

The research supports the launch of Vauxhall Motors' newest player in the SUV car park, the Grandland X.

The Grandland X is the largest SUV in Vauxhall's range with seating for five people, generous luggage space and a raft of technology, including WiFi for up to seven devices.

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018

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Vauxhall
Mokka X 1.4 Ecotec Active 5dr

Representative Finance Example:		Cost of Credit	£1,908.24
On the Road Price	£20,150.00	Duration of Agreement	48 months
47 Monthly Payments of	£239.92	Optional Final Payment	£6,783.00
Customer Deposit	£999.00	Total Amount Payable	£22,058.24
Finance Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00	Annual Mileage	6,000 p.a.
Amount of Credit	£16,151.00	4.2% APR REPRESENTATIVE*	
Interest	£1,908.24		

4.2% APR
REPRESENTATIVE*



Vauxhall
Grandland X 1.2 SE 5dr

Representative Finance Example		Cost of Credit	£2303.06
On the Road Price	£20,788.00	Duration of Agreement	48 months
47 Monthly Payments of	£249.98	Optional Final Payment	£9,143.00
Customer Deposit CASH OR P/X	£999.00	Total Amount Payable	£23,091.06
Finance Deposit Allowance	£1,200.00	Annual Mileage	6,000 p.a.
Amount of Credit	£18,589.00	4.2% APR REPRESENTATIVE*	
Interest	£2,303.06		

4.2% APR
REPRESENTATIVE*



Vauxhall
Insignia Grand Sport 1.5T (165) Design 5dr

Representative Finance Example		Duration of Agreement	48 months
On the Road Price	£17,235.00	Optional Final Payment	£6,902.00
47 Monthly Payments of	£239.55	Total Amount Payable	£19,159.85
Customer Deposit CASH OR P/X	£999.00	Annual Mileage 6,000 p.a.	
Amount of Credit	£16,236.00		
Interest	£1,924.85		
Cost of Credit	£1,924.85		
		4.2% APR REPRESENTATIVE*	

4.2% APR
REPRESENTATIVE*

Black Country
Vauxhall Dealers **Star Buys**

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Choice of colours FROM **£11995**
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Corsa Sting 1.4 75PS 3dr Quantum Grey
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Corsa Ltd Edition 1.4 75PS 3dr Royal Blue
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Persian Blue NOW **£14495**
RRP £18300 **SAVE £3805**

Crossland X Elite 1.6 99PS 5dr Persian Blue
RRP £21460 **SAVE £4965** NOW **£16495**

Crossland X SE 1.2 110PS 5dr Mineral Black
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Crossland X SE 1.2 82PS 5dr Lava Red
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RRP £21945 **SAVE £6450**

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RRP £21725 **SAVE £5930** NOW **£15795**

Mokka X Design Nav 1.6 115PS S/S 5dr White
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Mokka X Active FWD 1.4T 140PS 5dr Orange
RRP £22155 **SAVE £5160** NOW **£16995**

Mokka X Active S/S FWD 1.4T 140PS 5dr White
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Mokka X Active S/S FWD 1.6 115PS 5dr White
RRP £21445 **SAVE £5950** NOW **£15495**

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Dudley Motor Company
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01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk



All offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. Images used for illustration purposes only.

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 127 (22.3) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km. Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. * Worcester Carsales Limited, T/A Stourbridge Motor House, Dudley Motor Company, Halesowen Motor House and T Wall Garages, can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you. Offers subject to availability. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition and mileage of the vehicle. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance. CF15 7YT. Applicants must be 18 years or over and UK resident (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Deposit shown for illustrative purposes; with lower deposits monthly payments will be higher.

Hyundai supporting FIFA World Cup

Hyundai has announced the Go! SE range to support its sponsorship of this year's FIFA World Cup in Russia. The Go! SE will run across four model ranges, i10, i20, i30 Hatchback and Tourer and Tucson.

The Go! SE range features a high level of standard equipment, including satellite navigation and alloy wheels, as well as an exclusive Go! SE cloth upholstery design and Go! body emblems. The Go! SE models are available in a number of colours, including an all new colour, Champion Blue (metallic).

Equipment

The i10 Go! SE 1.0 66PS 5 speed manual is based on the i10 SE. Priced from £11,285, only a £495 premium over the base SE, the i10 Go! SE offers additional exterior equipment including 14" alloy wheels, gloss black door mirrors, privacy glass and black side body moulding. Interior equipment includes a 7" touchscreen navigation with Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™, leather steering wheel and gear knob, black headlining and Go! SE cloth upholstery. The i10 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Stardust Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid).

Available from £14,355, the i20 Go! SE 1.2 84PS 5 speed manual is again only a £495 premium over the i20 SE 5 door but brings equipment enhancements including a new design 15" alloy wheel, gloss black door mirrors, privacy glass, black side body mouldings, projection headlamps, LED daytime running lamps and 1.0 T-GDi style radiator grille. Interior additions for the i20 Go! SE includes 7" touchscreen navigation, black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery



The i10 Go! offers additional equipment



Hyundai's i30 Go! is based on the i30 SE Nav model

and centre console armrest. Additional equipment includes automatic headlamps and rain sensing wipers and an auto dimming rear view mirror. The i20 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Stardust Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid).

Next in the Go! SE range is the i30 Go! SE 1.0 T-GDi 120PS 6 speed manual, which is available in Hatchback or Tourer body styles

from £20,100 and £20,600 respectively. The i30 Go! SE is based upon the i30 SE Nav model, with significant specification enhancements including the 17" alloy wheels and front bumper from i30 Fastback, gloss black door mirrors and privacy glass. Interior equipment additions include black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery and climate control with dual zone operation. The i30 Go SE! is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue



The Tucson Go! SE is available with power train options

(metallic), Micron Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid). Finally, from £24,300, the Tucson Go! SE is based on Tucson SE Nav specification, with additional external equipment including a new design 19" alloy wheel, gloss black door mirrors and privacy glass.

Interior equipment additions include black headlining, Go! SE cloth upholstery and dark silver interior facia accents. Tucson

Go! SE also features automatic rain sensing windscreen wipers and an auto dimming rear view mirror. The Tucson Go! SE is available in 4 body colours, Champion Blue (metallic), Micron Grey (metallic), Phantom Black (pearl) and Polar White (solid), as well as 4 different power train options, 1.6 T-GDi 177PS 6 speed manual 2WD, 1.6 T-GDi 177PS 7 speed DCT 2WD, 1.7 CRDi 116PS 6 speed manual 2WD or 1.7 CRDi 141PS 7 speed DCT 2WD.

GO 18 REG HYUNDAI WITH A SPECIAL EDITION HYUNDAI GO!



Hyundai i10 Special Edition GO 1.0 5dr

14" Alloys - Privacy glass - 7" Touchscreen Navigation with Apple CarPlay™ - Android Auto™ - Air Con

£152⁸⁷ DEPOSIT* £152⁸⁷ PER MONTH*

With £500 Deposit Contribution*



Hyundai i20 Special Edition GO 1.2 5dr

15" Alloys - Privacy glass - LED daytime running lamps - Touchscreen Satellite Navigation (7") including Rear View Camera - Air Con

£199⁹⁴ DEPOSIT* £199⁹⁴ PER MONTH*

With £500 Deposit Contribution*

Representative example: Hyundai i10 Special Edition 1.0 Go Se 5dr



Hyundai Tucson Special Edition GO 1.7 Crdi Blue Drive 5dr

19" Alloys - Privacy glass - Touchscreen Satellite Navigation (8") Climate Control Apple CarPlay™ - Android Auto™

£2500 DEPOSIT* £286⁷⁰ PER MONTH*

With £2500 Deposit Contribution*

Cash price£10,490.00	Amount of credit £9,837.13	Interest rate (fixed for the duration of the agreement) 2.52%	The guaranteed future value is £3,856.50
Deposit £152.87	Interest £1,357.13	48 monthly payments of £152.87	Total amount payable £11,847.13
Manufacturer Deposit Contribution £500.00	Total charge for credit £1,357.13	1 final payment £3,856.50	Duration of agreement 49 months

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for the range of cars shown are: Highest: HYUNDAI Tucson 1.6 T-GDi 4WD, DCT7, Urban 30.7 (9.2), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5), Combined 37.7 (7.5), CO₂ Emissions 175. Lowest: HYUNDAI i10 1.0i Blue Drive, M5, Urban 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 70.6 (4.0), CO₂ Emissions 93. These official EU test figures are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.*T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Hyundai Finance, RH1 1SR. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Part exchange the vehicle; (ii) Pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value) to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess Mileage will be charged at the rate of 7.5 pence (+VAT) for the first 5,000 miles and at twice that rate thereafter. Hyundai Birmingham West is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offers correct at time of publication, E&OE.

Fiesta partys on and EcoSport on roll

Ford's Fiesta is Britain's favourite – a best-seller for more than 40 years and still number one with the car buying public.

To date it has notched up more than 16 million buyers, and the latest model is still winning awards.

That makes it the ideal platform on which to base another new model, the EcoSport, which competes in the fast-growing SUV market. Both have been updated and improved in recent months.

Since it first appeared in 1976, the Fiesta has gone through seven generations of improvements making it bigger, better equipped and safer, with petrol and diesel engines to suit whether you want better than 88mpg economy of the 75PS diesel or the award-winning 1.0 petrol turbo, capable of 0 to 62mph in under ten seconds and of averaging 65mpg. A 200Ps high performance Fiesta ST is on the way, too.

A wide range of trim levels ensures that there is a Fiesta to suit every pocket, right up to the Vignale flagship, bringing new levels of luxury to the supermini class.

The latest model has already carried off coveted awards including Carbuyer's Car of the Year, BBC TopGear magazine's Supermini of the Year and Best Budget car at the Women's World Car of the Year awards.

These successes come hot on the heels of What Car? magazine's award for the outgoing Ford Fiesta Best Small Car in its Used Car of the Year Awards.

Car-review website editor Stuart Milne said: "It is Britain's favourite car year in, year out, and the latest Ford Fiesta is the best yet. It looks great inside and out and packs plenty of big-car features into its compact dimensions. Buyers can choose from tremendous audio



The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs

upgrades, autonomous driving features and levels of luxury in the top-spec Vignale – unthinkable a few years ago.

"The new Fiesta boasts more interior space and safety kit than ever before, plus it is a fantastically fun car to drive. With attributes like this, it is no wonder we have named the new Ford Fiesta Carbuyer Car of the Year 2018."

The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs, and comes with a bold new look, new equipment and a revised suspension to give drivers an improved ride and handling. There's more choice in the range, too, with the addition of

a new 1.5 litre EcoBlue turbo diesel engine and, with that, the option of Ford's Intelligent All-Wheel Drive system, which can adjust the torque split between the axles to the extent that 50 per cent is directed to the rear almost instantaneously.

The 1.5-litre EcoBlue diesel engine is designed to deliver higher power for improved performance, alongside reduced CO2 emissions – as low as 107g/km.

It also shares the 1.0 litre, 125Ps turbocharged petrol engine as the Fiesta, boosted to 140Ps in the sportily-trimmed ST-Line – another addition to the range.

The new EcoSport delivers driver assistance



Ford Fiesta has been a best-seller for more than 40 years

technologies including SYNC 3 connectivity, cruise control with adjustable speed-limiter and rear view camera.

The new model comes in 12 bold colours and offers even more personalisation options – including contrasting painted roof colour options that extend to the window pillars, upper door frames, rear roof spoiler and door mirrors.

A user-centric, upscale new interior offers a superior occupant experience with floating central eight-inch touchscreen, heated steering wheel and smart stowage solutions including an adjustable boot floor.

The interior features a host of smart stowage

solutions, including a new height adjustable boot floor that can be raised to provide concealed storage, or lowered to increase luggage capacity to 334 litres.

The boot floor uses a special honeycomb construction that makes it gramme-for-gramme stronger than steel, and able to support more than 300 kg.

A new centre console features a built-in folding, sliding passenger armrest with a storage compartment ideal for tablet computers or snacks, and the CD-player is relocated to a new position above the glovebox to minimise impact on storage space.

NEW

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the New Ford EcoSport range: urban 39.2-62.7 (7.2-4.5), extra urban 56.4-74.3 (5.0-3.8), combined 48.7-68.8 (5.8-4.1). Official CO₂ emissions 134-107g/km.

The mpg figures quoted, sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Pricing and specifications for MG ZS

By James Parker

MG has announced pricing and specifications for its new ZS compact SUV.

Starting from £12,495, the Chinese-built model is available with zero-per cent finance and a seven-year, 80,000-mile manufacturer warranty that is transferable to any owner during the period.

Engines

Two petrol engines and gearboxes are available for the car. The entry-level motor is a 1.5-litre developing 105bhp and 141Nm of torque, paired to a five-speed manual gearbox, taking the ZS from 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds and up to a top speed of 109mph. Fuel economy is claimed 49.6mpg with CO2 emissions of 129g/km.

The second engine is a turbocharged 1.0-litre that produces 109bhp and 160Nm of torque which, coupled with a six-speed automatic gearbox, can take the ZS from 0-60mph in 12.1 seconds and to a top speed of 112mph. As for efficiency, fuel economy is claimed at 44.9mpg with 144g/km of CO2 emissions.

Three trim levels make up the ZS range — Explore, Excite and Exclusive. Standard equipment on all trims includes LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth connectivity and cruise control.

The range-topping Exclusive model features 17-inch alloy wheels, leather-style upholstery and an eight-inch touchscreen infotainment system that includes Apple CarPlay, satellite navigation and a reverse parking camera. Exclusive models are available from £17,495.



There are three trim levels in the range



Clear statement about quality

Matthew Cheyne, head of sales and marketing for MG, said: "With the introduction of a seven-year warranty, we are making a clear statement of intent about the quality of our design, engineering and manufacturing. "Our goal is to deliver hassle-free motoring in stylish cars that stand up to the toughest of challenges."



MG's goal is to deliver hassle-free motoring in stylish cars that stand up to the toughest of challenges

3

STEERING MODES*

MG ZS

ALL AREAS

WITH STYLE, SPACE AND SPEC

FROM

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7

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MGZS fuel consumption: URBAN 41.0 mpg | 6.9 l/100km, EXTRA URBAN 58.9 mpg | 4.8 l/100km, COMBINED 49.6 mpg | 5.7 l/100km, CO2 Emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: MG ZS Exclusive manual with Tri Coat paint (optional extra £695) in Dynamic Red at £16,190 OTR or £215.87 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. Offer shown available on MG Exclusive manual with solid paint at £15,495 OTR or £199 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months 'Vehicle Excise Duty'. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply. *0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG ZS models until 31.03.18. A minimum deposit of 20% applies. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YI, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

SUMMIT GARAGE is acting as a credit broker and not a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received.

*Available on Excite and Exclusive models

Dual celebrations for Startin Honda

West Midlands-based car dealer, Startin Honda Stourbridge, is celebrating this year by not only turning twenty, but launching two significant models this month.

With two sites, in Worcester and Stourbridge, the dealership has grown into Worcestershire's top performing Honda franchise.

The latest two Honda models will help firmly cement the newest of the Honda duo dealerships, Startin Honda of Stourbridge site, in to the locality.

This weekend there is a VIP event in the showroom. If you're looking for an extra special deal on a new Honda with lucrative support from Honda UK ... this may be the place to get it - Startin Honda Stourbridge.

Discount

"For customers who work within the emergency services such as nurses, the military or civil servants (including retired ones), Startin Honda has even more up the sleeve in terms of discount and we'd really encourage you to get in touch," said Roy Tyler - sales manager.

Startin Honda has just released the hugely anticipated Honda Jazz 1.5 i-VTEC Sport Grade and the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Diesel version.

The Jazz is a huge favorite and one thing that Jazz fans have been looking forward to is a Sports edition with a bit more power. This all new 2018 model has the 1.5 i-VTEC that's already fitted into the larger Honda HR-V. The 130ps will absolutely give the car a little extra performance and fun. Notwithstanding the new styling, LED headlights, sporty bumpers, black wheels and further neat detailing inside and out. It's a real looker. A compact car that's fun to drive and bursting with energy.



The new Jazz

The new Jazz Sport delivers exhilarating performance to match its fresh new look, without replacing its practical nature or hurt its economy. Combined CO2 figures are a lowly 133 g/km and a combined fuel economy of 55.4mpg is impressive.

The second model to be launched this weekend is the latest Honda Civic (over 22,000,000 Civics sold worldwide so far) with the addition of the new 1.6 i-DTEC engine. This builds on the cars already popular and award winning line up by adding fuel economy and diesel power to those that are diesel fans and those in the corporate



Honda's latest Civic is launched this weekend at the dealership

sector looking for low CO2 cars. The very latest Honda diesels are cleaner than many petrol cars offering only 93g/km of CO2 and a staggering 80.7 mpg on the combined cycle!

Startin Honda is owned by parent company, Startin Group, which has been trading for more than 179 years.

Originally set up as a coach builder in 1840, the company has now grown into one of the

UK's largest privately-owned motor dealership groups.

Tim Freeman, dealer principal at Startin Honda, commented: "We are extremely proud to have been working with the Honda brand for the last twenty years.

"Honda embodies everything we try to implement here at Startin in terms of innovation and expertise. We couldn't have

had a better year to celebrate this milestone with the launch of the all-new Honda Civic diesel and the Honda Jazz Sport.

"We're looking forward to continuing our successful partnership with Honda and celebrating another twenty years!"

To find out more about Startin Honda, or to book a test drive, visit www.startingroup.co.uk/honda



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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic EX 1.6 i-DTEC Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 78.5mpg (3.6L/100km), Extra Urban 83.1mpg (3.4L/100km), Combined 80.7mpg (3.5L/100km). CO2 emissions: 93g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Model Shown: Civic EX 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Rallye Red at £24,925 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic i-DTEC ordered from 01 February 2018 to 31 March 2018 and registered by 31 March 2018. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available.

Quality, technology and capability

By James Parker

The new Ford EcoSport compact sports utility vehicle (SUV) delivers enhanced versatility and capability, more refined styling and sophisticated technologies for customers in Europe.

The new Ford EcoSport for the first time offers Ford Intelligent All Wheel Drive technology for improved traction on- and off-road, combined with an advanced new 1.5-litre EcoBlue diesel engine, delivering up to 125 PS and optimised CO2 emissions.

Also available for the first time as a sporty, Ford Performance-inspired EcoSport ST-Line model, the new Ford EcoSport delivers driver assistance technologies including SYNC 3 connectivity, Cruise Control with Adjustable Speed Limiter and Rear View Camera.

Featuring enhanced dynamic, rugged and refined exterior styling, the new model is offered in 12 bold colours and offers even more personalisation options – including contrasting painted roof colour options that extend to the window pillars, upper door frames, rear roof spoiler and door mirrors. A user-centric, upscale new interior offers a superior occupant experience with floating central 8-inch touchscreen, heated steering wheel and smart stowage solutions including an adjustable boot floor.

"Ford has sold more than 166,000 EcoSport compact SUVs in Europe since we first introduced the model to the region in 2014, and last year sales grew 40 per cent," said Steven Armstrong, group vice president and president, Europe Middle East and Africa, Ford Motor Company. "The new Ford EcoSport offers customers even more style, comfort, capability and choice – blending



The car has bold, dynamic styling

rugged SUV functionality with city car practicality."

The SUV segment is the fastest growing in Europe. Registrations of SUV models grew by more than 21 per cent year-on-year to account for more than one quarter of all new passenger car registrations in 2016. Last year, Ford's SUV sales in Europe grew by more than 30 per cent. In the UK, over 40,000 EcoSports have been sold since its original introduction in 2013, with the Titanium model reaching 70 per cent of sales.

The new Ford EcoSport will deliver an optimised driving experience equipped with Ford Intelligent All Wheel Drive from mid-2018. The technology will be offered in combination with the all-new 1.5-litre Ford EcoBlue diesel engine and a six-speed manual gearbox, delivering 125 PS and 300 Nm of torque.

Intelligent All Wheel Drive measures how the car's wheels are gripping the road surface and can adjust torque delivery up to 50/50



New Ford EcoSport offers more style, comfort, capability and choice

between the front and rear wheels in under 20 milliseconds – 20 times quicker than it takes to blink. The system seamlessly transitions torque between all four wheels and provides a more secure footing on the road especially in slippery conditions.

The new Ford EcoSport features bold, dynamic Ford SUV styling, reflecting that the Kuga and Edge, EcoSport now also delivers a new level of interior refinement which includes easier to use controls and

soft-touch materials, and a new centre console ergonomically designed for easy operation and featuring fewer buttons.

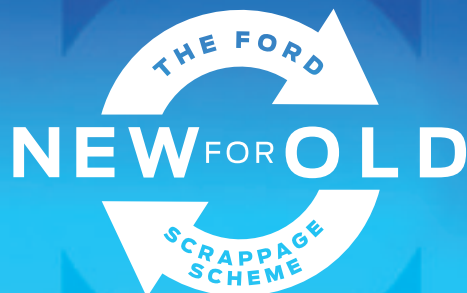
The new EcoSport line-up will for the first time include the sporty new EcoSport ST-Line variant, joining the Edge ST-Line, Fiesta ST-Line, Focus ST-Line, Kuga ST-Line, Mondeo ST-Line and S-MAX ST-Line models that offer bold styling and sports-tuned driving dynamics alongside powerful and efficient EcoBoost petrol and TDCi diesel engines.

Ford's sophisticated SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto™. SYNC 3 is supported by EcoSport's floating, 8-inch colour touchscreen, which can be operated with pinch and swipe gestures.

Also offered with SYNC 3 is a floating 6.5-inch colour touchscreen.

A 4.2-inch colour screen is offered in combination with Bluetooth connectivity and two USB inputs.

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I'll share secrets of my showbiz life

Aussie heartthrob Jason Donovan won't pull any punches when he lines up at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday to talk about His Amazing Midlife Crisis.

The man who shot to fame in Neighbours, dated Kylie, had the best-selling album of 1989 and thrilled vast West End audiences in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – before starring on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Strictly Come Dancing – will be starring in his first spoken word show.

Not that fans will be deprived of the hits. Jason will be performing a selection of his biggest songs in an acoustic setting.

And nothing will be off limits when he takes to the stage for the 90-minute show – including his relationships, his former cocaine habit and more.

"I'm really looking forward to doing this tour. It's something new, something I've not done before and something that the fans are looking forward to.

"There'll be music, there'll be stories, there'll be things people have never seen before and there'll be the chance for them to interact. It's a real up-close-and-personal sort of show. I can't wait."

Jason will reflect on his time in Neighbours during the show, chatting about his time as Scott Robinson and explaining how that character still travels with him.

"When we were on the Ten Good Reasons tour, we had a massive show at Hammersmith. There was a lot of expectation with it being the London show. We asked Kylie if she could come and join us but she wasn't around.

"Then, sitting with the crew in catering one night, someone said 'Have you thought about getting a labrador on stage?' They were referencing Bouncer from Neighbours, of course.

"We all laughed and thought it would be a funny idea to introduce someone that was petite and blonde, one of the members of the Neighbours cast – and then Bouncer walks on. So we'd teased everyone that it might be Kylie, but actually Bouncer turned up.

"Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult. It's not like you can audition a dog. And let me tell you, hiring a dog isn't cheap. Anyway, we booked a Bouncer lookalike.

"And then we got a call on the day of the show to say that Lookalike Bouncer was ill so they were sending an identical Stunt Lookalike Bouncer. Suddenly Bouncer had turned from a meat eating well rounded canine to a slim and petite Jenny Craig lookalike.

"Anyway the dog came on stage WITH its owner which wasn't what I expected, I had thought the dog would wander on and over to me. But it didn't. It forgot it was supposed to be Bouncer and started being a sniffer dog wondering if there were any treats in the stage."

Jason has spent a lifetime in the public eye and has learned to deal with fame. And in Jason Donovan and His Amazing Midlife Crisis he will explain how he's handled it.

"I never got into this business to be famous. It was a by-product of what I do, what I'm passionate about. However, that's not to say I



Too many broken hearts – Jason reveals all about his past

haven't enjoyed most parts of my fame. Look I came from Australia, where it was relatively calm, and then I came here and it was insane.

"I found Joseph particularly challenging because of the workload, being in a theatre and the responsibilities of leading a cast eight shows a week. It was really claustrophobic. But other things happen and you start to not take this whole game too seriously. Today I can deal with it but back then I found the intensity of it all difficult."

Jason will also talk about his rebellious 1990s, when he went off the rails. "The 90s was about rebellion. You find a lot of famous people rebel against their own image particularly if they've feel like they can't even control their own image. I was trying to be cool in the 90s, but in fact I came to realise there is no such thing as cool, no such thing."

"I had photographers chasing me around the world. It was just mad. There were people following me into the toilet to get an autograph."

These days, Jason is happily married with three kids and likes to

*Finding a dog that
looked like Bouncer
at the last minute
proved difficult*

combine work with downtime, so that he can spend time with his family. He'll talk about their importance and the way they help him to keep his feet on the ground.

"As long as the kids are getting tickets to Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Beyoncé, Coldplay or Chainsmokers through my contacts, then they're happy. There are some great moments that come about because of doing this. It was incredible meeting Prince William at a Gary Barlow show, for instance."

"And the reaction from Strictly was amazing. I think the kids were embarrassed when I signed up for that – but as soon as I started winning they didn't think it was so bad after all."

● Jason will also take his show to Telford's Oakengates Theatre on May 8 and Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on May 9.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

The Winslow Boy at the Rep



Tessa's no fool to take on role in play about justice

IT WAS written just after the Second World War. But Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* feels as relevant today as it must have done back then.

With its themes of honesty and honour – allied to an imperfect justice system – it still resonates.

The latest revival of the play is heading to Birmingham Rep from February 21 to March 3 and is being directed by the Rep's former artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh, starring Tessa Peake-Jones, best known for *Only Fools and Horses*, and Aden Gillett.

It focuses on the story of a young man, Ronnie Winslow, who is expelled from the Royal Navy College for stealing a five-shilling postal order. His entire family are pulled apart by the repercussions.

Set in Edwardian London, the Winslow family fight to clear his name or face social ostracism as the case becomes a national scandal. Based on a real-life event, *The Winslow Boy* is a window into the class and political hypocrisy of the time.

"It's about family. Do they rally round?" said Tessa, who plays the boy's mother. "Grace, my character, has a real meltdown and wonders why they are going on with it. They are losing money all the time on the court case with huge solicitors' bills. She finds it hard to justify it and she has a point."

"But it's a moral dilemma. Do you give in because it's easier to give in and live a quiet life and don't make a fuss. Or, do you fight on, morally, because you want to prove a point. I think it's still very relevant today."

Sunjay sings the blues at folk gig



Up-and-coming blues and folk musician Sunjay is playing a gig in Kingswinford next week.

Described as the the antithesis of your typical denim-clad, dishevelled folk and blues musician, Sunjay, pictured, has perfectly groomed hair, shining winkle picker boots and looks every inch the city slicker. However, when the Stourbridge man starts to play the guitar and sing, music fans are transported to a world where blues and country music meld seamlessly amidst humid mangrove swamps.

He will play at The Woodman

Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, tomorrow night (Friday).

Sunjay's earliest memories are, as a four-year old, learning Buddy Holly songs from his dad. During 2017, Sunjay played Buddy Holly, in Simon Fielder's travelling theatre show of *Buddy Holly & The Cricketers*, a role he was offered when he went for an audition in London as a backing singer and guitarist. He recently released an album *Sunjay Sings Buddy*.

Next Sunjay, whose full name is Sunjay Brain, is supporting folk stars Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman on a UK tour, which

comes to the Midland Arts Centre in Edgbaston on April 19.

He has also recorded a new album of his own songs to be released later this year.

Still only in his mid-20s, Sunjay has become a master guitarist, who has crafted his show to perfection.

An evening with Sunjay is an evening of exquisite blues, country and folk combined with a master class in guitar playing interspersed with hilarious anecdotes – and even the occasional Buddy Holly song.

The Kingswinford gig starts at 8.30pm. Tickets are £7 and £8. For more details call (01384) 560462.

Say Hello to jazz singer Irit at Glee

Israeli jazz singer Irit will showcase her new album *Hello* at Birmingham's Glee Club on Monday. The songwriter, pictured, who is also an actress and a former soldier, toured last year with Caro Emerald. Other key gigs: Tomorrow (Friday), Birmingham indie rockers JAWS at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton; Saturday, Grimsby rockers The Brew at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms; Sunday, veteran prog rock band Curved Air with Sonja Kristina at the Robin 2 in Bilston.



House full for CBSO at Symphony Hall

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has one of its busiest weeks coming up with a series of major concerts at Symphony Hall as part of its 2017-18 season.

The highlight is Saturday's sold-out performance of *Carmina Burana* with the CBSO Symphony Orchestra, chorus and children's chorus united under the baton of Michael Seal. That's after Freddy Kempf gets his chance to shine during Grieg's Piano Concerto. Kempf will also be performing that piece during today's (Thursday's) matinee performance with Elgar's *First Symphony*.

Next Thursday evening, February 22, Leo McFall will conduct the CBSO for Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and Paul Lewis will be at the keys for Brahms' volcanic *First Piano Concerto*. See www.thsh.co.uk

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Troy: Fall of a City (BBC1, 9.10pm)
New series. A encounter with the gods binds the fate of young herdsman Paris to that of his home city of Troy, and when he is granted the honour of visiting Sparta as a guest of King Menelaus, he falls in love with the beautiful queen Helen, with far-reaching consequences that threaten to bring an empire to its knees. David Farr's historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Bella Dayne, Jonas Armstrong, David Threllfall, Frances O'Connor, David Gyasi, Joseph Mawle, Johnny Harris, Tom Weston-Jones, Chloe Pirrie, Aimee-Fion Edwards, Alex Lanipekun, Alfred Enoch and David Avery.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News.** Weather. **1.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Continued coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30 Final Score. 5.25 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 And They're Off for Sport Relief.**

6.25 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Adams, James Van Der Beek, Clare Balding, Jenny Jones, Amy Williams, Graham Bell, Rhona Howie and more compete in a Winter Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.

7.15 All Together Now. Rob Beckett gives another selection of vocalists take to the stage, hoping to impress the 100-strong panel of judges enough to get them to sing along with their performance. This time, the would-be stars tackle Pharrell Williams' ubiquitous hit Happy, Climb Every Mountain from The Sound of Music and Skylark from the 007 film of the same name. The experts are also encouraged to go back with renditions of 1970s classics in the form of Candi Staton's Young Hearts Run Free and the Jackson 5's Who's Loving You.

8.20 Casualty. Ethan plans to deal with surplus patients by sending them to a Clinical Decisions Unit, but this fails to fool the Rage in Resus blogger, who continues to expose the faults.

9.10 Troy: Fall of a City. New series. An encounter between a Trojan herdsman and the queen of Sparta sparks a conflict that brings an empire to its knees.

10.10 BBC News. Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round matches, which included Brighton & Hove Albion v Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion v Southampton.

11.35 Live at the Apollo. The Hills hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Andi Osho and Terry Alderton. (R)

12.20 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Continued coverage of day nine from PyeongChang.

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day 11 from 7.30. **PyeongChang**, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day 11 from PeyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** Escape to the Country. **1.45** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **2.15** Film: The Third Man. 1945. Thriller, starring Joseph Cotten and Orson Welles. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.45** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **5.15** Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good. (R)

6.15 **Hugh's Wild West**. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall follows the fortunes of a small buzzard family, and tracks salmon migrating upstream as his wildlife tour takes him to Dartmoor.

7.15 **Winter Olympics – Today at the Games**. Clare Balding presents highlights of the eighth day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PeyeongChang, South Korea.

8.00 **David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities**. New series. The naturalist continues to explore the secrets behind evolution, this time focusing on the avian kingdom's bizarre hybrids – including a "pizzly bear". Previously seen on W.

8.30 **Dad's Army**. Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. (R)

9.00 **QI XL**. An extended edition in which Bill Bailey, Colin Lane and Deshaun Burch join regular panellist Alan Davies to discuss the Sandi Toksvig's questions on the theme "Overseas"

9.45 **Imagine – Mel Brooks: Unwrapped**. Alan Yentob travels to Hollywood to interview Mel Brooks, the comedy actor, writer, producer and director who turned 91 last year. At the time of filming, the musical theatre version of Brooks' 1974 comedy horror *Young Frankenstein* has just opened on London's West End. Yentob marks the occasion by profiling its creator, observing him at work and play, and revisiting archive interviews stretching back decades.

11.00 **Film: Young Frankenstein**. (1974)

12.40 **Film: The Producers**. (1968) **2.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.50** BBC

6.00 CITY. *Sooty*. (R) **6.10** *The Aquabats!* *Superhero Squad*. (R) **6.30** *Dino Dana*. (R) **6.50 Super 4. (R) **7.00** *50 Stories*: *Share a Story*. (R) **7.05** *Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution*. **7.30** *Scrambled!*: *Scrambled!*. **7.35** *Scrambled!*: *The Tom and Jerry Show*. (R) **7.50** *Scrambled!*: *Fangbone*. (R) **8.10** *Scrambled!*: *The Powerpuff Girls*. (R) **8.30** *Scrambled!*: *The Powerpuff Girls*. (R) **8.50** *Scrambled!*: *Wishart*. (R) **9.25** *ITV News*. **9.30** *James Martin's Saturday Morning*. **11.25** *The Hungry Sailors*. (R) **12.25** *ITV News*: *Weather*. **12.30** *Dancing on Ice*. (R) **2.30** *Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury*. (R) **3.00** *Celebrity Catchphrase*. (R) **4.00** *Tipping Point*. (R) **5.00** *The Chase*. (R) **6.00** *ITV News*: *Weather*. **6.20** *Regional Programme*: *Weather*. **6.30** *Take Me Out*. A rower from Nottingham, a barman from Luton, a lifeguard from London and a football fan from Ipswich enter the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness presides on the matching process, and catches the couples on the latest dating action from all the couples in Fernando's as the dating game bows out for another series. Last in the series.**

8.00 **The Voice UK**. Emma Willis hosts the conclusion of the blind auditions phase of the contest, as performers compete for the chance to impress judges Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Olly Murs and win one of the final places on the coaches' teams. Those contenders surviving this stage of the competition remain in with a chance to win a recording contract with Polydor Records.

9.30 **Through the keyhole**. Keith Lemon hosts the game show in which celebrity panelists Paddy McGuinness, Catherine Tyldesley and Chris Kamara are challenged to identify the homes of the rich and famous.

10.30 **ITV News**: *Weather*. **10.45** **Film: *Lethal Weapon 3***. (1992) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Thriller sequel starring Mel Gibson.

12.45 *Jeopardy!*. **2.30** *80s Rushbusk*. (R)

6.05 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **6.20** Rock Rock Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supertv. (R)

3.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. New series. Penelope heads on a seaside journey around the coastal villages of the UK. In the first episode, she visits the coastal village of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight, where she quickly finds herself immersed in stories of seafarers, smugglers and shipwrecks. Previously seen on More4.

8.00 Britain at Low Tide. New series. Natural History Museum palaeontologist Tom Herridge returns with the maritime documentary, which makes use of state-of-the-art technology to explore Britain's coastline for signs of the nation's seafaring history. This time, she begins in East Sussex, where she explores the wreck of a ship that sank in the 1740s along with its cargo, and she uncorks a bottle filled with 19th-century red wine. She also discovers a prehistoric well shaft that is now situated on the foreshore, but would have been much further inland 2,000 years ago.

9.00 Film: Ted 2. (2015) Premiere. The foul-mouthed talking teddy bear is horrified to discover that he counts as property and subject to the law. He and his human best friend hire a local smoking lawyer to help them fight a court case and get Ted legally recognised as a person. Comedy sequel, starring Mark Wahlberg and Amanda Seyfried.

11.15 Film: Dracula Untold. (2014) Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans and Dominic Cooper.

12.55 The Last Leg. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Four Rooms with Sarah Bee. (R) **4.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **7.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **8.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **9.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **11.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **12.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **1.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **7.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **8.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **9.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **10.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **11.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **12.40** Location, Location, Location. 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6.00 **Milksake!** **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (R) **10.35** What Do You Laugh Out Loud 3 (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors (R) **12.00** **Police Interceptors, (R)** **1.00** **The A-Team, (R)** **2.00** **The A-Team, (R)** **3.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, (R)** **4.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, (R)** **5.00** **Rich House, Poor House, (R)**

6.00 **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey. Dalmatians Daphne and Digby start to develop the spots that will mark them out for life, and take their first stumbling steps in the great outdoors. Play the toy poodle's huge personality belies her diminutive form, while abandoned Jack Russell pup Boomer's shattered confidence will need to be rebuilt by the love of a foster home. (R)

7.00 **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** A Lilliputian lout roams the Inner Hebrides puts Jane in touch with her Scottish roots, as with just six other passengers she embarks on what is easily her smallest ever cruise. (R)

8.00 **The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship.** Part two of two. The Seven Seas Explorer's designers rush to choose the luxury fittings and fixtures, before Princess Charlotte of Monaco christens the vessel. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Middlesbrough, Fulham v Aston Villa and Sunderland v Brentford.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two, including Milton Keynes Dons v Charlton Athletic and Barnet v Accrington Stanley.

10.30 **Film: There's Something About Mary.** (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart—but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller.

12.40 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **GPS: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **4.00** **Secrets of the**

BBC Four
7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World
8.00 Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus
9.30 Top Gear: Road to Rome **10.10** The
 Joy of the Bee Gees **12.10** Southern Rock
 at the BBC **1.10** Singa Net Diamond **1.40**
 The Joy of the Bee Gees **2.40** From Ice to
 Fire: The Incredible Science of
 Temperature **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out **12.55** Mr Bean **1.30**
Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas
 (2000) **2.35** **Film:** Viva Rock Vegas (2000)
Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000)
3.45 **Film:** Say Kids (2001) **4.15** **Film:**
 Daily **4.40** **Film:** Say Kids (2001) **5.05**
Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.10** **Film:**
 Daily **6.15** **Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013)
7.00 **Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **8.10**
Film: Daily **8.15** **Film:** Jurassic World
 (2015) **9.30** Survival of the Fittest **10.35**
 Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30**
 The Cleveland Show **1.00** **Film:** Zack and
 Cody: A Modern Pomo (2009) **2.00** **Film:** Daily
2.05 **Film:** Zack and Cody: A Modern Pomo
 (2009) **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** **ITV2**
 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.20 **Film:** Columbo: The Most Crucial
 Game (1972) **2.55** Lewis **4.55** Midsomer
 Murders **6.55** The Durrells **9.00**
 Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05**
 The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** **ITV3**
 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
1.30 **ITV** Racing: Live from Ascot **4.00**
Film: The Way West (1967) **5.05** **Film:**
 Daily **5.10** **Film:** The Way West (1967)
6.25 **Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **7.25**
Film: Daily **7.30** **Film:** Casino Royale
 (1967) **9.00** **Film:** Executive Decision
 (1996) **10.30** **Film:** Daily **10.35** **Film:**
 Executive Decision (1996) **11.45** **Film:**
 Blade (1998) **12.45** **Film:** Daily **12.50** **Film:**
 Blade (1998) **1.25** **Film:** The Protectors **2.35**
 Counting Cars **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 **Film:** Casper (1995) **2.00** The Big
 Bang Theory **7.00** **Film:** Men in Black
 (1997) **9.00** **Film:** X-Men: First Class
 (2011) **11.35** **Film:** Cobra Kai (2010) **12.45**
Film: Daily **1.40** **Film:** Cobra Kai (2010) **2.45**
 Celebs Go Dating: Valentines **3.35** Celebs
 Go Dating **4.30** How I Met Your Mother
5.15 **Film:** Daily **5.15** **Film:** Tube

Film4
1.00 **Film:** Moody and the Not Bummer
 Summer (2011) **2.45** Young Sherlock
 Holmes (2005) **4.55** Ice Age: The
 Meltdown (1986) **6.40** The Day After
 Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** **Film:** Lone Survivor
 (2013) **11.20** The Fly II (1989) **1.25** The

CHOICE



Daniel Day-Lewis

British Academy Film Awards 2018 (BBC1, 9pm)
Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. (R) **12.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continuing coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Rochdale v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Anglesey, where they go in search of harbour porpoises, investigate the boom in Menai mussels, talk to children who work to keep the beaches clear of plastic, and meet a squirrel whisperer. Plus, Helen Skelton reports on faux fur and Adam Henson discovers how farmers are using facial recognition technology to spot problems with their livestock. **7.30** **Hold the Sunset**. New series. Comedy, starring Alison Steadman as a retired woman whose dreams for the future are disrupted when her middle-aged son abandons his family and moves back into her house. **8.00** **Call the Midwife**. Rumours spread around Poplar that a sailor with smallpox is hiding somewhere in town. Nurse Crane and Dr Turner try to track him down before he causes an outbreak. **9.00** **British Academy Film Awards 2018**. Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards. **11.00** BBC News. **11.20** Regional Programme. **11.30** **Julius Caesar Revealed**. Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman emperor. (R) **12.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Ellidh Barbour presents coverage of day nine. **9.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Further coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **1.45** A Vicar's Life. (R) **2.15** The Crane Gang. (R) **3.15** South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness. (R) **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **6.00** **New York: America's Busiest City**. Behind the scenes with the team who look after all 843 acres of Central Park, revealing the hidden systems and organisational miracles that keep the world's busiest urban park clean and green. Plus, Ant Anstead sees how an entirely new district is being built on top of a functioning rail depot in Manhattan and Dan Snow is in Coney Island, where he discovers that television, air conditioning and extreme weather almost killed off this historic amusement zone. (R) **7.00** **Winter Olympics – Today at the Games**. Clare Balding presents highlights of day nine's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea. **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. The panel assess the profit-making potential of a combined toothbrush and mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. **9.00** **Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution**. New series. Documentary following prisoners in Arkansas awaiting execution following the state's reintroduction of the death penalty. **10.00** **The Mash Report**. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R) **10.30** **Live at the Apollo**. Rob Beckett presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R) **11.15** **Cleverman**. Koen confronts Linda about the dark secret from their past, Nerida, Alinta and Latani are arrested by the Containment Authority and Jarli takes Charlotte to the land of the Bindawu. **12.05** Film: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) **1.50** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.50** Holly City. (R) **3.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.55** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** The Harbour. (R) **1.30** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.00** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News: Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** **Dancing on Ice**. Phillip Schofield and Holly Wootloughby present as the seven remaining pro-celebrity couples put their training into practice in a battle to win viewers' votes, impress the judges and survive another week on the ice. As always, Chris Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo will be scoring them out of 10, but it will only be after the viewers have voted that the unlucky two in the skate off will be revealed. Singer Camila Cabello provides the music. **8.00** **Endeavour**. Morse suspects a connection between a woman's disappearance and the unsolved murder of a teenager several years previously. However, the discovery of a body and some unusual elements to the crime scene suggest another possibility. Thursday investigates a lorry hijack which he believes could be the work of a local gangster, and Fancy takes on an informant who is subsequently murdered. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R) **11.15** **Frustrated Britain: Caught on Camera**. Examining things that anger the public, featuring an annoying brother, a foul-mouthed granny, celebrities seeing red, and a woman angered by poor spelling. (R) **12.10** Car Wars UK. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water. (2015) Premiere. Animated comedy. **4.45** Film: Rio 2. (2014) **6.35** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Posh Pawn**. James enjoys a tipple from an unusual £75,000 fire engine bar, memorabilia expert Lawrence is presented with an autograph collection that could be worth £20,000, and a former model wants to sell some designer bags to the high-end pawnbrokers to finance the renovation of her house and her body. (R) **8.00** **The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man**. Documentary following scientists at the Natural History Museum and University College London studying Britain's oldest human remains. The skeleton was unearthed in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, and has been dated as 10,000 years old. Two of the world's most acclaimed palaeontological model makers are attempting to recreate the human face of this ancient Briton. **9.00** **Homeland**. New series. The espionage drama returns for a seventh season. Saul and the 200 other federal employees detained after the attempt on the President-elect's life are still in prison, while the new head of state's administration continues to come under scrutiny. Carrie has left her position in the White House and moved back to DC, living with her sister Maggie and her family as she takes on the Keane administration and tries to secure the release of her mentor and colleagues. Starring Claire Danes. **10.15** Film: Our Kind of Traitor. (2016) Premiere. A couple are thrown into the murky world of espionage when a Russian gangster asks them to smuggle classified information. Thriller. With Ewan McGregor and Naomie Harris. **12.20** The Supertent. (R) **1.15** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.00** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moby. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Mooty: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **12.30** Film: Justin and the Knights of Valour. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **2.15** Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **4.45** Film: Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50** Film: Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Concluded. **7.00** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** **Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R) **8.00** **Dumb Daredavils: Caught in the Act**. Iain Lee narrates comic clips featuring would-be daredavils, including a blogger who will do anything his followers tell him to, including jumping off Tower Bridge. Plus, the programme meets a man whose daredevil marriage proposal has been viewed millions of times and has led to an unusual career change. **9.00** **When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong**. Julian Clary narrates a compilation of disastrous mishaps from comedy shows. Featuring a stunt fight that ended badly for Russell Howard, an incident that left Tony Hancock determined to never perform live again, and a rare outbreak from a long-forgotten sitcom in which Ian Ogilvy and Lionel Jeffries nearly drown. **12.00** Bette Midler: By Her Friends. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Akala's Odyssey **10.00** Film: In Order of Disappearance (2014) **11.50** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **12.50** The Secret Life of Books: Cider with Rosie **1.50** Modus **4.05** Close
ITV2
2.20 Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.20** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Survival of the Fittest **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.35 Les Dawson Forever **3.40** The Durrells **5.50** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.15** The Security Men **1.15** Blue Murder **2.35** Judge Judy **3.00** George and Mildred **4.20** Road to Avonlea **ITV4**
12.35 Pawn Stars **2.25** Hornblower **4.40** Film: The Way West (1967) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: The Way West (1967) **7.05** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: The Train Robbers (1973) **9.00** Film: High Plains Drifter (1973) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: High Plains Drifter (1973) **11.10** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **1.20** The Professionals **E4**
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Toy Story Toons: Hawaiian Vacation **1.15** The Big Bang Theory: Sheldon's Family Tree **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.15** Film: Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Celebs Go Dating **2.10** Don't Tell the Bride: Valentine's Day **3.05** First Dates **Abroad** **3.30** Hollyoaks **Film4**
1.00 Last Holiday (2006) **3.10** Carry On Jack (1963) **5.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **6.50** G.I. Joe: Retaliation (2013) **9.00** The Family (2013) **11.10** Zero Dark Thirty (2012) **2.15** The Future (2011) **4.00** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse as a way of dealing with a tragedy, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home to her family. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo and Chazz Palminteri. (2013)

TUESDAY

Deadly Departure, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington, DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer, Victoria Pratt and Justin Johnson. (2016)



Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Friday, Channel 4, 12.05am

WEDNESDAY

A Housekeeper's Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A student fears for her life after a number of disturbing occurrences, leaving her desperately searching for the culprit. The search leads to her family housemaid - unaware their connection is much deeper than expected. Thriller, starring Chrysti Ane. (2016)

THURSDAY

Killer Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A National Guard soldier returns from the frontline in Iraq and struggles to return to a normal life. To make matters worse, she finds herself blamed for a friendly fire incident in which two Americans were killed - and then she becomes the target of an obsessed fellow soldier seeking revenge for their deaths. Thriller, starring Roxanne McGee. (2016)

FRIDAY

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Channel 4, 12.05am

A werewolf leads a revolution against the vampire king who has enslaved his race, starting a centuries-long war. Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen and Bill Nighy. (2009)

Grim new case is far from child's play for Marcella

You might be well-apprised of the police procedural format by now; typically, our hero detectives are broody rebels touched by crime-solving genius.

In ITV's Twitter-storming 2016 'London Noir' thriller Marcella, the heroine had bigger issues than a meddling DCI or an unhealthy relationship with booze - plagued by dissociative fugues, DS Marcella Backland suffered periodical black-outs, and while she appeared to function normally during these moments, she was later unable to remember anything she had done during these episodes.

This proved incredibly problematic when her cheating husband's mistress suddenly turned up dead - and Marcella wasn't able to say with any confidence whether this was the work of a fugitive serial killer, or her own misdeed.

Naturally, this issue became the core of the show's appeal, and the fact wasn't lost on actress Anna Friel: "It's a study of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown whilst

holding down a really full on job."

Just like it's ITV crime-drama stablemate Broadchurch, Marcella gave its female lead a highly personal stake in catching the killer, and the idea carries over to the second series. In the words of writer Hans Rosenfeldt: "Marcella is a show that is just as much about Marcella being Marcella as it is about her being a police officer. So, it works best when the case she is working on is connected to her personal life in some way."

This time around, we catch up with her following a grim discovery inside a wall. The body of a child is found, clothed in a school blazer and surrounded by soft toys, and Marcella is devastated when she realises the tragic victim is Leo Priestley, a boy who was abducted a few years earlier - and one who had been friends with her own son Edward.

As a result, work follows Marcella back home once again. Not only must she protect her own children from a deadly predator, but she also has to help her son come to terms

with the death of a schoolmate. And it seems her efforts might not quite hit the mark.

"Marcella has thoughts on whether she deserves to be a mother or not," states Friel. "She seems to try her best but maybe that's not enough."

Considering the demands of playing a character whose life falls apart on a routine basis, it must be hard for the ex-Brookside star to get back into Marcella's head-space. Not so, claims Friel: "As soon as the fringe was cut back in and my hair was pulled back into the ponytail, I was like 'ooooh, she's back'".

For some, though, the mark of a great Scandi-style thriller heroine rests solely on her wardrobe. Danish actress Sarah Lund famously jump-started a knitwear revolution with her Faroe Isle jumper in The Killing, and back in 2016, high-street retailers struggled to keep up with demand for replicas of Marcella's own fur-trimmed casual parka. So does the coat make a reappearance this series?



Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

24 Hours in Police Custody Channel 4, 9pm

The return of the programme that follows the work of Bedfordshire Police around-the-clock, with enquiries covered from the cells at Luton to the operational heart of major cases. The first edition goes behind the scenes of a major investigation into an allegation of police corruption, with the unprecedented access given by the police meaning that cameras are allowed to document all of the twists and turns of the case as detectives track down, arrest and then charge one of their fellow officers.

TUESDAY

The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies Channel 5, 8pm

As a nation we're obsessed with dogs, so little wonder this series featuring the QI veteran has been so successful over the years. Now it's back for a sixth run, and once more the heart-warming documentary profiles RSPCA officers, including Sarah Gardener. She enters one of the largest multi-dog households ever seen. Cameras also follow Anthony Puffer, who attempts to help six dogs caught in a house fire in south east London, and there's a happy ending for two dogs left in the lurch by their owner.

Shetland

BBC1, 9pm

As the eponymous region is relatively small, there are only so many places killers can run - the airport or the coast. So Jimmy Perez has an easier job than some TV detectives. Or does he? Considering the problems he's faced over the years, one of Shetland's most amiable detectives is beset by no end of bad luck, so hopefully he'll get a break in the latest offering. The hunt is on for Malone's attacker, Tosh investigates Forst Energy in the search for Sally's killer, and DNA in the Kilmuir case yields a surprising result. Good support comes from Alison O'Donnell.

Working for Weinstein

Channel 4, 10pm

For years the Weinstein Company and Miramax were film brands synonymous with quality productions. And then everything changed. Under criminal investigation in Britain and the US, expelled from Bafta and the Academy of Motion Pictures, Harvey Weinstein's fall from grace has been swift since allegations of sexual abuse and harassment emerged against

him last October. This documentary hears testimony from those who worked with him across 30 years of British film, and investigates how he kept his accusers quiet for decades.

WEDNESDAY

The BRIT Awards 2018 ITV, 8pm

The all-conquering Ed Sheeran may have dominated the charts on both sides of the Atlantic over the past 12 months, but tonight he could well be upstaged by a 22-year-old breakthrough pop star from London. Dua Lipa, who scored a huge summer hit with New Rules, has earned the most nominations at the 2018 Brit awards, receiving nods in the British Female Solo Artist, Breakthrough Act, Single, Video and British Album. Another one of the biggest sellers of 2017, Sam Smith's The



The BRIT Awards 2018, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

Thrill of it All, has been completely shut out of the nominations. But the good news for his fans though is that he is confirmed to perform, as are the likes of Foo Fighters, Justin Timberlake and Rita Ora. Finally, new host Jack Whitehall has been brought in to inject some risqué humour into proceedings.

THURSDAY

Girls on the Edge BBC2, 9pm

Observational documentary following three girls who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act to prevent them from harming themselves. Their detention is indefinite and the film explores the impact on them, their siblings and their parents, who do not know when their children will be allowed home. They include a 17-year-old who hopes to be discharged before her 18th birthday and a 16-year-old whose mother is desperate to have her home - but is worried about having the responsibility of keeping her daughter safe once more.

FRIDAY

Live Six Nations Rugby Union BBC1, 7.30pm

France v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match from the third round of fixtures, which takes place at Orange Velodrome in Marseille.



6-10 MARCH

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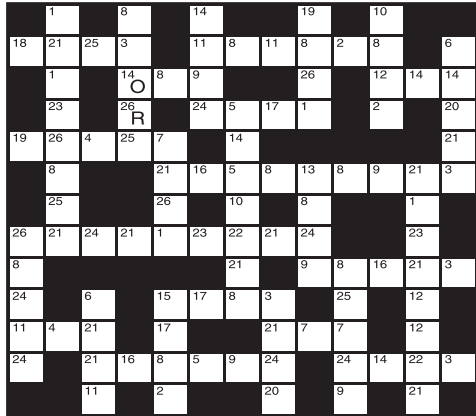
This project is receiving up to £34 million of funding made up of £17 million European Social Fund and £17 millions Youth Employment Initiative, plus match funding of up to £8 m from the Big Lottery Fund and funding from partners.

BRAIN GYM

No.467

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
P	F	S	Y	V	N	G	E	T	B	I	M	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	Q	J	X	A	H	Z	C	K	D	O	L	R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

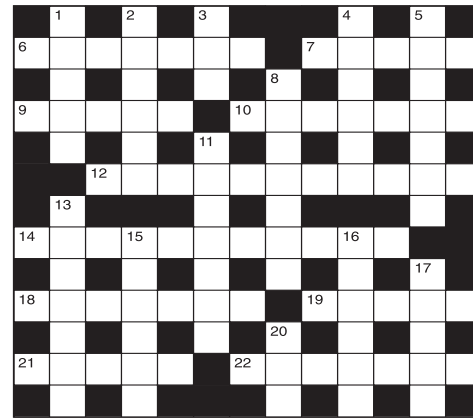
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Club which may improve the flow of writing (7)
 7. Passed a writer in the street (5)
 9. One taking part (5)
 10. Settled for having the team in red (7)
 12. Be likely to profit by a rise? (5,2,4)
 14. Not an offence, but a solicitor may be consulted about it (5,6)
 18. Invest capital, perhaps? (7)
 19. Look well on (5)
 21. Colour an Irishman goes about in (5)
 22. Declining music for a song (7)

Down

1. You can put it on a horse that's a sure thing (5)
 2. Not quite a fifty majority (6)
 3. A small court of law (3)
 4. Bound over for three months (6)
 5. Succeed with a will in their resolve (7)
 8. Willingly die? (7)
 11. General form of increase (7)
 13. Some leavers reform (7)
 15. Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)
 16. Not even a strange thing (6)
 17. Charles I was an old woman! (5)
 20. Hardened bunch (3)



Quick Clues:

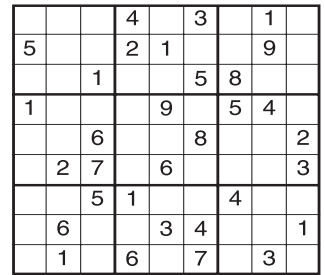
Across

6. Wretched (7)
 7. She-fox (5)
 9. First-rate (5)
 10. Advise (7)
 12. Remonstrate (11)
 14. Prodigal (11)
 18. Fluent (7)
 19. Flood (5)
 21. Ardent (5)
 22. Shortage (7)

Down

1. Truck (5)
 2. Culmination (6)
 3. Globe (3)
 4. Indication (6)
 5. Keepsake (7)
 8. House (7)
 11. Summon (7)
 13. Elucidate (7)
 15. Recompense (6)
 16. Serviette (6)
 17. Garret (5)
 20. Not many (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	9	5	6	8	7	2	3
8	2	7	3	1	4	6	9	5
3	5	6	7	2	9	8	4	1
7	6	8	9	5	1	4	3	2
5	3	1	4	7	2	9	8	6
4	9	2	6	8	3	1	5	7
9	7	5	2	4	6	3	1	8
6	8	4	1	3	5	2	7	9
2	1	3	8	9	7	5	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grounds; 7 Umber; 9 Car; 10 Ordinance; 12 Grasscutter; 15 Under his hat; 17 Willpower; 19 Rot; 21 Steer; 22 Malaise. Down: 1 Break; 2 Out; 3 Ode; 4 Impartial; 5 Teacher; 8 Discus; 11 Orderlies; 13 School; 14 Anxiety; 16 Loose; 18 Elan; 20 Lay.
 QUICK - Across: 6 Heathen; 7 Loyal; 9 Age; 10 Imprudent; 12 Second-class; 15 Infantrymen; 17 Continual; 19 Pry; 21 Acute; 22 Astound. Down: 1 Feign; 2 Sty; 3 Deem; 4 Gondolier; 5 Earnest; 8 Friday; 11 Devastate; 13 Outing; 14 Invoice; 16 Brine; 18 Also; 20 Rot.

Quiz

- Which delicacy comes in American, Norway and spiny varieties?
- Which composer was Richard Wagner's father-in-law?
- How is the laughing jackass also known?
- What was Thomas Edison's middle name?
- Who was Lynne Frederick's first husband?
- Which Yorkshire town includes the remains of the castle where Richard II died?
- What type of edible plant is laver?
- What is a skink?
- In which sport are the Swaythling and Corbillion Cups contested?
- Which dreamer was the creation of US humorist James Thurber?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bernard; 2 Foreign Secretary; 3 Pool; 4 David Langton; 5 Scrofula; 6 Charlie Chaplin; 7 Mermaid; 8 Rosh Hashanah; 9 George VI; 10 Lerner and Loewe.
 Niner: SIDETRACK

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4389 gives grime,
 1726 gives more grime,
 5834 gives residue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Well presented bungalow with a private garden

In a superb cul-de-sac position, 6 Maidensbridge Drive, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a very well presented detached bungalow with a level, sunny and private rear garden.

It is for sale through Taylors at £239,950.

Having a generous and well proportioned layout, with gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation includes an entrance porch, a large reception hall with doors leading off to all accommodation, a large lounge which overlooks the private rear garden, a breakfast kitchen, a lean to conservatory, two double bedrooms and a shower room with a separate WC.

The property is set back beyond the low maintenance front garden with a front/side driveway and garage. Maidensbridge Drive is in a small residential cul-de-sac which is much sought after and, whilst pleasantly tucked away, is within easy reach from regular public transport services and Wall Heath's friendly village shops, restaurants and other amenities.

In more detail the entrance porch has tiled flooring. The large reception hall has a large built-in storage.cloaks cupboard which houses the Vaillant combination boiler and provides storage space and has a window to the side.

Impressively large, the lounge has a window to the front, a door to the rear garden, windows to the side, a living flame gas fire with a feature Adam style fireplace surround and coving to the ceiling.

Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes, a window to the front and coving to the ceiling.

Another double room, bedroom two has a window to the front and coving to the ceiling.

The shower room features a corner shower cubicle, full width fitted furniture which includes a wash basin and cupboard storage space, full height tiling to the walls and a patterned window to the side.

Outside, alongside the home is a long front/side driveway which provides off road parking and the side driveway is shared with the neighbouring property and provides access to the garage. The rear garden is very private and laid out to be low maintenance.

WALL HEATH £239,950



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Dudley Chronicle
Thursday, February 15, 2018



SEDGLEY, Gospel End Road

Enviably situated on corner plot in favoured district adjacent to open fields & with good distant views; an appreciably **SPACIOUS**, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family residence offering **TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL** briefly comprising: entrance vestibule, hall, cloakroom, 19' through lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry, Gallery landing, **FOUR** bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens to front, side & rear, Double garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Viewfield Crescent

Stunningly presented **DETACHED** within walking distance of Sedgley centre and with **AMAZING** open views. Benefitting from double glazing & gas central heating this family home also boasts porch, hallway, dining-kitchen, living room, sitting room/study, utility, ground floor shower room, **FIVE** BEDROOMS (with en-suite to master) bathroom, garage, ground & 1st floor balconies to rear, garden, parking for ample vehicles. **VIEWING ESSENTIAL!** SEDGLEY EPC TBA



LOWER GORNAL, Cinder Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Fairly recently built, gas centrally heated, double glazed **FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM** detached within walking distance of village. Stunning specification includes: hall, cloaks, dining room, elegant 16'7" lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units, Gallery landing, four double bedrooms (bedrooms one and two with shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£345,000**

Offers in the region of **£339,950**

New price

WAS £325,000, NOW £315,000



LOWER GORNAL, Water Road

Well presented, **EXTENDED DETACHED** within walking distance of GORNAL VILLAGE. Benefiting from having **NO UPWARD CHAIN** and drive offering ample parking, this good-sized family home boasts: porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, **FIVE** BEDROOMS, family bathroom, separate W/C, and gas central heating with enclosed rear garden. **VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL.** EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Northway

AMAZINGLY SPACIOUS! Significantly extended, gas centrally heated, double glazed **FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM** semi detached with further potential comprising: porch, hall, store, dining room, **EXTENDED 19'10"** lounge, **EXTENDED 14'2"** kitchen, walk-in pantry. Gallery landing (possibility of 5th bedroom?), four double bedrooms, bathroom. Double garage, extensive corner plot. EPC: D SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Ivyhouse Lane

A wonderfully presented **DETACHED** family home located in the popular Coseley area. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing this delightful property also benefits from: porch, hall, guest W/C, through lounge, snug/ sitting room, dining-kitchen, utility room, **FOUR** BEDROOMS, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and driveway offering ample parking to front. **Viewing Essential** EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.



HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

An **IMPRESSIVE** and **BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED** **DETACHED BUNGALOW** for those of 55 years and above, which is superbly placed within Himley Village, including hall, generous lounge, conservatory, refitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and shower room. **BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY** and **ADDITIONAL REAR CAR PARKING SPACE** EPC C



LOWER GORNAL, Keats Drive, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED, gas centrally heated, double glazed bungalow with panoramic distant views comprising: hall, lounge, enlarged bathroom, utility room, stunning 22'4" through 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with comprehensive range of 'arts & crafts' oak style units (double French doors out to garden), two double bedrooms, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £269,950, NOW £259,950**

Offers in the region of **£250,000**

Offers in the region of **£249,950**

No upward chain **£239,950**

Offers in the region of **£235,000**



KINGSWINFORD, Ridge Road

This **EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED** FAMILY HOME is exceptionally well placed within a highly sought after location and further enhanced by the **VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN**. The accommodation includes **THREE** GOOD BEDROOMS and is set back beyond the **DRIVEWAY** and **GARAGE**. EPC D



SEDGLEY, Catholic Lane, 'The Limes'

ENVIABLE LOCATION at Sedgley's premier address! **APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS** luxury first floor gas centrally & double glazed apartment in exemplary order within walking distance of day-to-day amenities/doctor's surgery. Still covered by NHBC guarantee the accommodation includes: L shape lounge, kitchen with 'Old English Cream' finish units, inner hallway, two double bedrooms, principal bedroom with shower room en suite, bathroom. Secure parking. EPC: B SEDGLEY.



COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill

This tastefully presented semi-detached property is located in the extremely popular Hurst Hill area of Coseley. Having gas central heating and double glazing this perfect family home also benefits from Porch, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, **THREE** BEDROOMS, refitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden, and garden to front. Offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Grange Road

A wonderfully presented semi-detached property in the popular area of Coseley. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing, this **EXTENDED** family home also, comprises of entrance porch, hall, living room, good-sized re-fitted kitchen, dining room, ground floor wet room, **THREE** BEDROOMS, shower room, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. This home is also offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.



Brierley Hill, Blewitt Street

This **STUNNING & EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED** HOME comprises: Stylish Hall, **BEAUTIFUL CONTEMPORARY GLOSS KITCHEN** BEING OPEN PLAN TO SITTING ROOM & DINING AREA, **GORGEOUS** RE-APPOINTED BATHROOM, Driveway & **SECLUDED GARDEN**. EPC: E

No upward chain **£229,950**

PRICE: **£164,950**

Offers in the region of **£139,950**

Offers in the region of **£138,500**

£137,500



NETHERTON, Cradley Road

This **TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED** HOME is perfectly suited for **FIRST TIME BUYERS** and comprises: Porch, Hall, Lounge, **STUNNING** RE-FITTED CREAM KITCHEN, **BEAUTIFULLY** RE-APPOINTED WHITE SUITE BATHROOM, Driveway & Attractive Garden. EPC:

£134,950

Offers in the region of **£130,000**



LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive

A recently refurbished and wonderfully presented property situated in the popular area of Lower Gornal. As well as benefiting from upvc double glazing and gas central heating this ideal starte home also boasts: entrance hall way, guest W/C, living room, re-fitted kitchen-diner, **THREE** BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY



NETHERTON, York Road

This **EXTENDED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED** HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, **CONTEMPORARY** KITCHEN, Guests W.C, **TWO** FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Rear Garden & **GROUND FLOOR 2ND** RECEPTION ROOM which could also be used as a **THIRD** BEDROOM. EPC:

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PENSNETT, Primrose Park

Set within a secure gated retirement complex, including beautifully laid out and maintained gardens/grounds, on site manager and **COMMUNAL** RESIDENT CAR PARKING, this **LARGER** STYLE and **DECEPTIVE** **TWO** BEDROOM MEWS BUNGALOW is AVAILABLE WITH **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC D

No upward chain **£99,950**



BILSTON, Pickwick Place, Bradley

A superbly presented ground floor maisonette with parking and rear garden and situated in an attractive cul-de-sac location. As well as entrance porch this ideal starter property, rental investment or even bungalow alternative also benefits from living room, attractive fitted kitchen, **TWO** BEDROOMS and allocated parking. Offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

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PROPERTY



Modern end terrace ideal for first-time buyers

A modern end terraced house, 309 Newhampton Road West, Wolverhampton, lies centrally located in the centre of Wolverhampton, within easy reach of the city, its retail outlets and excellent commuter network.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners estate agents at £140,000.

The property is generously

WOLVERHAMPTON

£140,000

proportioned and should attract first-time buyers, young families and investors alike.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, an entrance

hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, conservatory, a ground floor WC, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there is a rear garden and hard-standing to the front, ideal for parking.

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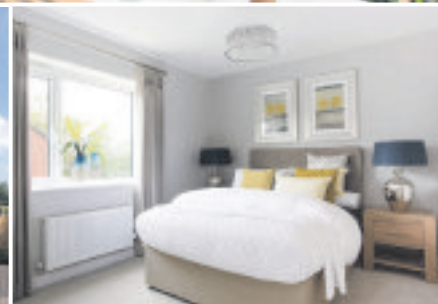
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EPC rating: D



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A relaxed and refined cruiser with divisive American style

By Tom Wiltshire

Ford's Vignale nameplate is a luxury sub-brand, which Ford says is a response to customer feedback. Loyal buyers of the American brand were buying more and more top-spec Titanium models, leaving them nothing higher to upgrade to when trade-in time came around.

In response, Ford's added Vignale trim across its model line-up, which acts as a range-topping trim – giving customers extra kit, improved materials, chrome detailing, and dedicated Vignale benefits.

We're testing Ford's flagship SUV – the Edge – in this glitzy Vignale spec. On the outside, the Edge Vignale gets a selection of exclusive paint colours. Once it's been painted, Ford lets its design team loose with chrome detailing – there's a massive and imposing Vignale-specific grille, glitzy chrome wheels and shiny roof rails.

Inside, the Vignale gets quilted leather seats, while Ford's covered the plastic dashboard with swathes of leather. The carpet's thicker, and even the boot is coated in deep-pile shag. Under the skin not much has changed, but there's extra soundproofing to make the Vignale a relaxed and refined cruiser.

The Edge Vignale is available with just one 2.0-litre diesel, available in two states of tune. The lesser model gets 178bhp and a six-speed manual gearbox, while



It's certainly an eye-catching car

the top brass can choose the 207bhp version mated to a six-speed auto. Our car was the latter. The engine is fairly refined, but it's definitely no speed demon.

Ford has a strong track record for making cars that handle well, and the Edge is no exception. For such a big car it's unusually good in the corners. But in standard form, the Edge is a very heavy car; the Vignale even more so – and you can definitely feel that weight working against you. The steering is accurate, but feels overassisted – a necessary evil when trying to give such a big car light steering.

Divisive, in a word. Some will love the Edge's combination of imposing American style and shiny chrome – others will find it a bit chintzy. We initially fell into the latter camp, but had to admit the car grew on us as the week drew on. It's certainly eye-catching, and if you want road presence few cars at this price are better. The big problem for most is presented in the centre of that vast front grille – the Ford badge. Unfortunately, the blue oval simply doesn't have the prestige of BMW, Audi or Mercedes, and that will affect your standing in the company car park and, more importantly, residual values.

The Edge's interior is a tale of two halves – the top of the dashboard is a great example, where swathes of premium leather meet a cheap, plasticky storage bin. There's a sense that Ford's expended effort on upgrading materials that didn't need upgrading – like the door cards – and ignored ones that should have, such as the centre console.

The standard Sync3 infotainment is a mixed bag too. It has one of the most intuitive interfaces around, but unfortunately features an ugly UI and a poor-quality screen which is recessed awkwardly into the dash.

Four adults can sit comfortably, and the vast boot has over 600 litres of space. It's also eerily silent on the motorway, thanks to lots of sound deadening. Ford throws the book at Vignale models as standard, and you won't be left wanting for much. Dynamic LED headlights, quilted and heated leather seats, a hands-free electric tailgate and digital gauge cluster all come as standard. You also get Ford's Sync3 infotainment system, with sat-nav, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

If you want a big, luxurious SUV, the Edge Vignale has a lot going for it. There's a sense that if you're already sold on the Edge, opting for the Vignale wouldn't be too big a stretch. Those who do go for it will find a spacious, relaxed SUV with a comfortably familiar badge on the bonnet.



Vignale is a range-topping trim

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Well-built and good range of engines

By Carmel Stewart

Staying well on trend, Skoda has added a second SUV to its range. The new Karoq follows closely in the tyre tracks of the larger Kodiah which has sold very well since its launch a few months ago and has attracted slightly younger buyers than is the norm for Skoda.

It is hoped the new family-sized Karoq, which effectively replaces the outgoing Yeti, will lower that demographic still further.

Built on the VW MQB platform which also accounts for the SEAT Ateca and the VW Tiguan, it enters into a highly competitive sector into which pretty well every manufacturer has eased its own SUV. Not surprising when you consider that, while overall new car sales are down, this particular sector is up 11per cent.

Unlike the Kodiah, which has a seven-seat option, the aerodynamically styled Karoq is confined to five supportive seats, housed in a well-built, comfortable cabin with decent leg and head room all-round, albeit with a transmission tunnel for those middle feet.

The dash is clear and uncluttered and the sat nav excellent. Rear seat passengers have tray table as standard for those essential snacks. The boot is a fair size at 52litres which expands to 1,630 litres with the rear seat backs flat.

Engines are of the tried and tested variety and range from the 1.0litre, 115ps, three-cylinder petrol to the 2.0litre 150ps four-cylinder diesel.

The feisty 1.5litre 150ps petrol, which has been tweaked slightly for the Karoq, is expected to be the best seller. It packs a fair punch and showed an excellent turn of speed



The boot is 52litres and 1,630 litres with rear seats flat



Rear seat passengers have tray table as standard

on request. In addition, there are two diesel engines available – a 1.6litre, 115ps and a 2.0litre 150ps which has the added attraction of being available with four-wheel-drive.

If your load lugging is occasional rather than frequent, the 1.0 litre three-cylinder will suffice, being more powerful than you might suppose and returning an average 52.3mpg.

The diesel units are inevitably the most economical with the red rosette going to the 1.6litre TDI which returns an official average of 61.4mpg.

Transmissions vary from the wonderful seven-speed DSG, which is hard to fault, to the excellent notchy six-speed manual – neither will present any problems.

In fact, no aspect of the new Karoq will present any problems – except to the sales person, for the SUV market is now so crowded that it is difficult to single out any single model as the best of what is a very good bunch.

The new Karoq is as well placed as any. It is well-built, has a good range of engines and a generous standard spec and the starting

price of £20,875.00 is on a par with its rivals.

Standard SE spec includes 17-inch Ratikon alloys, privacy glass, LED rear lights, dual-zone climate control, DAB radio, Bluetooth, front assist, pedestrian monitor and driver fatigue sensor.

SE L models are priced from £23,165 and add 18-inch Braga alloys, Amundsen satellite navigation with eight-inch touchscreen display, Smartlink+, keyless entry and start/stop, full LED headlights with adaptive front light system, heated front seats, and Alcantara

upholstery, rear view camera and front and rear parking sensors.

The range-topping Edition trim comes with 19-inch Crater alloys, panoramic sunroof, metallic paint and leather upholstery as standard. Columbus satellite navigation with 9.2-inch touchscreen display and gesture control, electrically operated boot and LED ambient lighting are also included along with lane assist, blind spot protection with rear traffic alert, traffic sign recognition and a price tag of £27,110.



The Karoq follows closely in the tracks of the larger Kodiah which has sold very well since its launch a few months ago



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New Sport Model joins luxury Lexus RX line-up

The Lexus RX is making a stylish start to 2018 with the addition of a new Sport model to the luxury crossover range.

The combination of new, black-themed style details plus an equipment specification rich in luxury and technology features give the new RX Sport extra customer appeal, together with the proven quality, refinement and efficiency of its self-charging petrol-electric hybrid powertrain.

Trademark

The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements with a matching black finish. This includes a powerful rendition of the trademark Lexus spindle grille, featuring a sequence of horizontal black fins, framed in chrome and flanked by fog lights set in new black surrounds.

The 20-inch alloy wheels have a twin-spoke design and are also finished in black.

The side profile is further punctuated by new black housings for the heated, electrically adjustable door mirrors with integrated turn indicators and auto-folding function.

The cabin has an all-black theme, including the smooth leather upholstery.

At the rear a new black and chrome diffuser treatment for the lower part of the bumper creates a strong contrast with the bodywork colour while also expressing the RX's status as a spacious SUV with all-wheel drive capability.

It sits at the heart of the RX range as an accessible choice for customers,



The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements

based on the Luxury grade.

In addition to its specific external features, the RX Sport is equipped to a high level. LED headlights with Automatic High Beam, smooth leather upholstery Lexus Premium Navigation, a 12.3-inch multimedia display, heated and ventilated front seats with power adjustment and a memory setting for the driver's seat,

steering wheel and door mirrors.

The fourth generation RX has a top five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP and all versions are fitted with the Lexus Safety System+ package of active safety and driver assistance features.

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**4
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Animals**

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have the required Passport infor-
mation.

Pets Corner

KIND HOMES WANTED
Heidi, Schnauzer/Springer,
2 years, lovely, friendly girl.
Maddie, Collie cross Springer,
age 10, likes walks, others
dogs, lovely gentle girl.
Jack, Saluki/Greyhound,
5 years, timid gentle boy,
ideal companion.
Eve, Boxer cross Staffie,
6 years old, very affectionate,
good in the car, loves her toys,
house trained.
Pepper, 9 year old Boxer cross
Lab, very handsome girl, lovely
natured, easy going, likes to
play, only dog.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk
and for information on
01588 676106.

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

CAIRN TERRIER CROSS female, 9
months old, champagne/white,
spayed chipped, fully inoculated,
£150. 01384 637110.

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Thank you all who joined in our
Star Appeal, the donations were
very welcome and will
help our dogs on their way to a
new home but most of all was
the thought that despite all the
cruelty we see there are lots of
people out there who love their
dogs. Thank you for restoring
our faith in people.

Messages were read by all,
sadness was felt for your loss of
the pets that have gone over the
rainbow bridge, the stars, like
the memories, are in a box and
will come out again at Christ-
mas, they will not be forgotten.
Carol James
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

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**5
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advice before entering into any
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**6
Property**

Overseas Property

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independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

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WE PAY 100% of purchase price
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Accommodation To Let

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independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
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Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

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required. 07780 704355.

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**7
Jobs**

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Seeks full or part time position. Experienced. All classes covered. Annual training completed. 07950 398750.

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05 plate. Silver.
87,000 miles.
Full service history.
Lady driver.
Very good condition.
Asking price £2,300.
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Good clean car inside and out,
43,423 miles,

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£1,650 ono.

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CITROEN XSARA PICASSO
2007, very good condition,
68,000 Miles, 1.6 diesel, exclusive,
electric windows, air con,
long MoT, cruise control, pas,
Alloys, CD,

£1,599 ono

07879 403302



HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTEC ES
5-dr, manual, petrol, 44,500
miles, 2008, red, long MoT,
aircon, cruise control, alloys,
PAS, glass roof, reverse
censors,
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630912.

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Immaculate condition.

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07467 562680.

Cars Under £1500

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MoT till May 2018.

£1,150 ono.

07787 424281. 01902 238488.

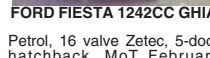
FIAT PUNTO 1200

Y reg, MoT September, low miles, 54,000, excellent throughout and excellent runner,

£475.

07972 169554 or

01384 253328



FORD FIESTA 1242CC GHIA
Petrol, 16 valve Zetec, 5-door hatchback, MoT February 2019, 48,000 miles, nice blue metallic, EW, alloys.
Bargain £585
0121 384 7888 /
07771 428793.

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2003. Petrol.

Black.

MoT.

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One owner from 2004.

£750.

01384 265938.



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2007, 92,000 Miles, red, abs,

electric windows, air bag, elec-

tric mirrors, air con, alarm, long

MoT, central locking, pas,

Alloys, CD

£1,495

07469 316572



NISSAN MICRA 1.0

P. Reg.

Red.

MoT.

FSH.

Excellent runner.

Bargain £395 ono.

07973 775560.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 106

2000, 76,000 Miles,

Red, Mot April 21, 2018.

Lady owner.

Lovely little car.

Well looked after

and maintained.

Very reliable.

£360.

07510 195762.



PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 1.4

2007, 67k, black, electric

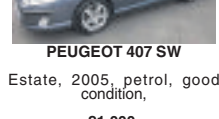
windows, electric mirrors, air

con, fsh, alloys, 12 months

MoT.

£1,495.

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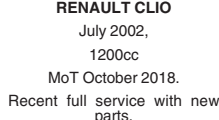
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MoT October 2018.

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01902 831832.

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SRI 2006

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and Spares. Wolves Hire
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9

Local Information

Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for a Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act) has been received from Myron Cordis of Church Tavern, 36 High Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2AA for the following:

Statement of Relevant Licensable Activities or Relevant Qualifying Club Activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises.

Sale of alcohol for consumption on and off premises

Playing of recorded and live music between the following times:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 and 23:30

Friday - Saturday 10:00 and 00:00

Sunday 10:00 and 23:30

And one extra hour into the morning following:

1st January, 17th March, 23rd April, 1st May, 31st October, 5th November, 24th December and 31st December

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see below) between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk.

Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between 6th February 2018 and 5th March 2018 to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is 5,000.

SHEILA HAYWOOD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 20 Oldfield Road Hunt Hill Coseley WV14 9AH, who died on 21/06/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 17/04/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED

Astic 650 Astic West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD

(Ref: AHOL/4203619P/Haywood)

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Stokes buzzing over fight night at Genting

BOXER Josh Stokes is buzzing to get in the ring at the Genting Arena and earn the fifth victory of his burgeoning career. The 24-year-old will compete on BCB Promotions' 'Now Or Never' show on February 23.

It was initially set to be on the undercard of Frankie Gavin's IBO World Welterweight Championship bid. However, that has now been rescheduled for March 24.

West Bromwich light heavyweight Stokes hasn't fought since stopping Latvian Raimonds Sniedze in September last year but believes this will be to his advantage. "I was supposed to fight in December but I wasn't very well, so I couldn't," he said.

"I think the break will have done me good anyway," he added. "I have been working hard in the gym and it has given me a chance to work on a few different things. It is a class show and I cannot wait to get out and box there. I don't think I will be fazed by it."

Tickets, from £40, are available from theticketfactory.com

Kindon guest speaker at Smile for Joel night

FORMER Wolves star Steve Kindon is the guest speaker at a sportsman's dinner in aid of the Smile For Joel charity next month. It takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday, March 1.

Tables of 10 are £400 plus VAT with a former player from either Villa, Wolves, Albion, Blues or Walsall on each table.

Event organiser Steve Saul, from Route 39, said: "The support we get from former players from the local clubs is amazing. Last year we raised £6,000 for Smile For Joel and we are looking to top that this year."

Contact Route 39 on 01902 244220 to book places or for more information.

The cause was set up in memory of Tunisia terror attack victims Charles Evans, Joel Richards and Adrian Evans, from Wednesbury, who died in 2015.

Former Wolves winger Kindon is a five-times winner of the Soccer Speaker of the Year award.

Promotion recalled as trio take centre stage

THE manager, captain and Player of the Year from Wolves' historic first promotion to the Premier League are back in Wolverhampton to mark the occasion's 15th anniversary.

Boss Dave Jones, defender Paul Butler and goalkeeper Matt Murray will be at the ECC Sports and Social Club, on Showell Road on March 1.

The 2003 Championship play-off final, a 3-0 win over Sheffield United at Cardiff, will be shown in full before the trio take centre stage.

Jones, aged 61, is back in the area, living at the Bridgnorth home he's retained since his time in charge of Wolves, from January 2001 to November 2004. Murray, 36, is now a pundit after being forced to retire from the game due to injury. He saved a penalty in the play-off final.

Butler left Molineux the following summer and played for Leeds, Milton Keynes Dons and Chester before hanging up his boots in 2009. He's now 45.

Tickets are £10, which includes a buffet and photo opportunity. For more information and to buy, call into the venue or dial 01902 424455.



Visitor Rose Cook-Monk signs the book of remembrance



Duncan's first cousin Keith Edwards takes a look the exhibition

Exhibition kicks off to honour legend Duncan

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

AN exhibition in honour of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards has been launched and will run until March 30.

The display includes a special book of remembrance to mark the 60th anniversary this month of the Dudley-born Manchester United and England star's death.

Among the first to sign the book was Tony Whelan, a former Manchester United player and now assistant director of the club's academy.

He was joined by Birmingham teenage prospect Dermot Mee, who is currently in the youth set-up at Old Trafford and hoping to follow in Duncan's footsteps.

The pair made a special trip from Manchester to get a glimpse of the exhibition in Duncan's honour. It is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, near the Black Country Living Museum, and features a host of photographs, press cuttings, memorabilia and football programmes relating to legendary 'Busby Babe'.

Privilege

Mr Whelan said: "We are proud to follow in the footsteps of Duncan. He will be a Manchester United legend forever, and it was a real honour and a privilege to come down today to see this new exhibition."

Dermot said: "Duncan was very special to everyone at Man United throughout his time at the club.

"He has inspired many of us players to continue right to the end, chasing our dreams.

"His story is a special one for me as obviously we're both from a similar neck of the woods, and it would be a dream to follow in his footsteps one day."

United and England icon Duncan was one of eight players who died following the Munich air disaster on February 6, 1958. He died 15 days later on February 21, aged just 21. The book of remembrance forms part



Edwards in action for Manchester United

of an extended exhibition honouring the footballer.

The museum, which is normally closed on a Sunday, will be open especially from noon to 2pm on February 18 as part of the commemoration.

It will tie in with a special service of remembrance on the same day at St Francis's Church, where there are two stained glass windows celebrating Duncan's memory.

Around 80 Manchester United fans are expected to travel on the day for the service and to visit the museum, as well as visiting Duncan's grave at Queen's Cross cemetery and stopping off at his statue in the town centre.

A special wall of remembrance is also being set up at the church, where Duncan's funeral was held, for visitors. It will tell the story of his life, from his childhood in Priory Park to his days playing for the Red Devils and England, and was being unveiled at the

start of this week. A Duncan Edwards Tribute Dinner will take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on February 21 with special guests including former Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and European Cup-winning goalkeeper Alex Stepney, as well as members of the Manchester United Former Players Association.

Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I would urge anyone who has any memories of Duncan Edwards to get along to this exhibition and put pen to paper in the book. He was a giant of the beautiful game, and he was Dudley born and bred."

In total Duncan made 177 appearances for Manchester United, scoring 21 goals, and playing his part in two league title wins in the mid to late 1950s. Nicknamed 'The Tank', he also won 18 caps for England, netting five times for the national side.

Travelled

He was once famously described by former teammate and best friend Sir Bobby Charlton as "the only player who made me feel inferior".

Duncan and Sir Bobby shared the same digs in Manchester and during National Service near Shrewsbury they travelled together on the train every Friday night for Saturday matches before returning to the Army on Monday.

Sir Bobby said: "Duncan was the complete footballer – a colossus, powerful with his heading ability and unbreakable in the tackle. He would rampage tirelessly across the pitch, had a perfect first touch and was deadly in front of goal."

Sir Bobby, who was pulled from the burning wreckage of the aircraft, has never forgotten those who perished in the disaster. He said: "Almost 60 years have passed since I last saw Duncan when I left hospital in Munich and I still think of him almost every day.

"I am very pleased to be part of this tribute in Dudley that will pay homage to the memory of my friend, team-mate and the greatest footballer I have ever seen."

For further information on any of the events taking place as part of the tribute, log onto www.duncanwardstribute.com, email jwc@duncanwardstribute.com or call Jim Cadman on 07971624627.

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DK runners relegated to division three

FOR many the weekend signalled the end of a long cross country season for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Going into the final match rooted to the bottom of the table the men knew they would be up against it, they had been at the foot of the table all season. The difference between dominating Division 3 two years ago and being competitive at Division 2 level is a world apart.

On a four lap course around farmland the blue hoops worked hard to ensure they said goodbye to the division with the guts and determination. Steve Holdcroft, having placed 3rd in the Stourbridge Stagger the previous weekend, again performed well placing 21st in 38.39, Darran Bishop was 114th in 43.20, Dave Norman was 150th in 45.16, Mark Homer was a place behind in 45.24, Simon Blizard was 187th in 47.43 and Pete Hood completed the A team in 193rd position in 48.32. Simon Hughes finished in 200th place in 48.59, Mark Gatenby was 202nd in 49.02, Dave Hickman was 205th in 49.57, Andrew Weaver was 217th in 51.52, Graham Wildgoose was 227th in 53.10 and Richard Jones was 233rd in 54.26.

DK were placed 17th of 17 clubs on the day and confirmed their relegation to Division 3 with Northbrook and Gloucester AC.

At Aldersley Stadium for their final fixture the ladies were only able to muster half a dozen runners. Hannah McGuire covered the course in 30.47 to take 92nd place.

Pedmore victory over Enville in indoor cricket league

PEDMORE (123 for 1) beat Enville (92 for 2) by 31 runs in week five of the WCB Indoor Cricket League North Division.

Pedmore opener Dave Skelding (25 no) who reached retirement in only the third over and partner Paul Taylor scored freely against friendly and often wayward bowling from the Enville. Jon Hurdman (25 no) carried on in similar fashion as Pedmore lost their only wicket on 84, with the run out of Paul Taylor. The remaining Pedmore batsman continued the good work with only Enville's Tom Jackson bowling well.

Enville lost captain Jono Howells, bowled by Jon Hurdman, in the 1st over. They then found runs hard to come by with Paul Taylor bowling sharply. On the retirement of Matt Branch (28 no) the required run rate was increasing along as was indecision on whether to run or not. Their innings finished 92 for 2, well short and so suffered their first loss of the season.

Hagley (101 for 4) lost to Oldswinford (102 for 3) after Hagley batting first lost hard-hitting Joe Lennon for five being bowled by Jack Stanier in the 1st over.

Charlotte nets England squad call-up



Charlotte Bardsley

TABLE tennis ace Charlotte Bardsley is relishing the chance to learn from the world's best after being called up to the England squad for the Team World Cup in London - aged just 15.

Charlotte, of Stourbridge, will step out in front of thousands of spectators at the Copper Box Arena at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, from February 22-25. The tournament brings together the six continental championship-winning teams, plus the best

finishers from the 2016 World Team Championships.

England have a host nation place and will be among the underdogs. The other teams to qualify are Singapore, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Romania, North Korea, USA, Brazil, Egypt and Australia.

They will be drawn in groups of three, with the top two going into the quarter-finals. However, Charlotte, who attends Heathfield School in Wolverley,

believes they could cause some upsets. She said: "I'm really happy to be called up. It's 100 per cent the biggest event I will have been to, on a whole other level from anything else."

"They are all really tough teams and none of them are going to be easy but we're known for causing upsets."

Charlotte has been named in the England squad alongside Tin-Tin Ho, Kelly Sibley, Maria Tsaptsinos and Denise Payet.

Tempers boil over in derby clash

Halesowen Town 2 Rushall Olympic 0
HALESOWEN ended a five game losing sequence to ease away from the base of the table in a local derby of eight yellow and two red cards. The much-needed win brought a sense of relief for Yeltz to add to the breaking news of an imminent club takeover.

But the Pics had the better of the early chances with a first minute shot from Dan Waldron and Andre Landell going close. Ex-Yeltz defender Joe Hull then headed a corner wide and Simone Maye curled wide from the edge of the area after 12 minutes.

Halesowen's Jordan Goddard went close when his 25-yard shot was tipped over by loan Port Vale goalkeeper Joe Slinn after 14 minutes. The Yeltz worked another good chance in the 31st minute when Myles Arnold was put through only for Slinn to make a great save by turning the fierce shot away.

The game's major flashpoint came after 40 minutes when Pics forward Richard Brodie tussled with Yeltz manager John Hill and his assistant Matt Clarke before a mass brawl broke out. Hill was sent from the dug-out and Brodie was red-carded, reducing Rushall to ten men.

Halesowen took the lead in the first minute of the second half when a 25-yard shot from Goddard was pushed away by Slinn and Lee Knight converted the rebound on his debut. Jack Kelly doubled Halesowen's lead directly from a 65th minute right-wing corner.

It's a spot of bother for the Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Farsley Celtic 2
A GIFTED opener, a goal 48 seconds after half-time and a saved penalty saw Farsley Celtic further hamper Stourbridge's faltering play-off bid.

Glassboys keeper Harry Beasley suffered a moment to forget as Ben Atkinson's low-shot skipped up off the turf and sailed over him 18 minutes in.

Luke Benbow soon erased that moment of misfortune by firing in a deflected leveller within two minutes but Farsley struck what proved to be the decisive blow with less than a minute of the second half played. Benbow scuffed a spot-kick for an easy save 52 minutes in.

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DK UNSTUCK IN THE MUD

Stoke 24 DK 20
OPENING exchanges saw Dudley Kingswinford in the Stoke 22, but no points to show for the pressure. But when Stoke made their first attack they were awarded a penalty which they kicked for a 3-0 lead.

Stoke's lead was increased following a period of possession in the DK half.

This saw a scrum in the DK 22, a ball back for a good cross kick behind the DK outside backs gave a Stoke winger the opportunity to collect a try, the conversion hit the upright, 8-0 to Stoke.

By half time the score was back in DK's favour, 11-15, as DK were able to score two tries. Luke Trevis flew in for the first and the second followed break on the DK left for Dan Marsh to cross the line.

Conversion

Sam Vaughan added a conversion and a penalty, against a further penalty from Stoke.

After the interval e DK opened their lead to 20-11 following a try from the impressive Matt Perks.

Both sides continued to play well in the conditions and the accumulated layer of mud confused some of the crowd into thinking that DK had one forward with a black scrum cap.

Two DK players both put in a tremendous shift carrying the ball, Perks and Hawkins.

Though, Stoke managed to reduce the gap following a second try, converted by their fly-half, to make the score 18-20, with DK still in front.

Two further penalties for Stoke saw them go into the lead with time running out, 24-20. There was one last roll of the dice, when DK were awarded a penalty which was kicked into the corner but it wasn't to be, as Stoke saw the game out 24-20.

There were factors which did not help on Saturday, but the effort put in by the whole team was not one of them. Next DK are at Hereford.

Tennis club love this tournament



Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club Valentine's tournament winners Chris Brown and Bec Yates

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club (WLTC) members were out again braving the elements for their 2018 Valentine's Day Tournament this weekend.

In a new format to the tournament, 20 members signed up playing a series of round robin rounds over Saturday afternoon in the three hour tournament at the Prestwood Drive club.

The main tournament was won by Chris

Brown and Bec Yates, with Paul Wootton and Pam Cartwright close behind in second place. Each round comprised eight game matches with sudden death deuces.

This is traditionally the first tournament of the calendar year for WLTC and is a competitive one to get the season started.

Tournament organiser Max Bywater said: "It has proved to be really successful."

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